Gerry's Daily Blog Archives - May 2025

May 31, 2025

Selling a Well Preserved 1993 Mazda Miata

Summer Baltimore Show - New GFRC Table Location

and

The 1860-O V-2 Half Dime Discussions

Greetings on the final day of May 2025 and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for checking back after our Porsche centric extended vacation.

Friday was yet another non-stop busy day with a return to morning blogging, followed by preparing several GFRC shipments. There was still enough time during the morning hours to wash and vacuum the 1993 Miata before placing a For Sale sign in the passenger side window and moving her to the entrance of our hilltop construction road. Yes, this little sports car is a classic and still looks great as it has never seeing any winter road salt. My evidence is that the original exhaust is still in place after 32 years! Here she is on the top of Ledge Hill hoping for someone to show interest. We decided to be at $9000 firm towards accelerating the sale. I believe this number is fair for the vintage and near-gem preservation condition. What can you buy today for this number that is an automotive antique along with drawing attention where ever driven?

When compared to the 718 Boxster, the 1993 Miata is a just a fun driving toy for those that live in areas with country roads. We've been diligent with ongoing maintenance so there should be no mechanical surprises. Back in 2015, a new radiator and hoses were installed along with new brake pads. At the time, the mileage was about 75,000. Recent maintenance includes new tires last summer along with an oil change. We've averaged about 1500 miles per year of summer driving since 2015.

Yes, the rains are back on a Saturday which means a full day in the GFRC office as there is a host of backlogged consignments and auction lots that need attention. Come Sunday's Blog edition, I will share details about another new purchase which took place on Friday afternoon.

Summer Baltimore Show - New GFRC Table Location

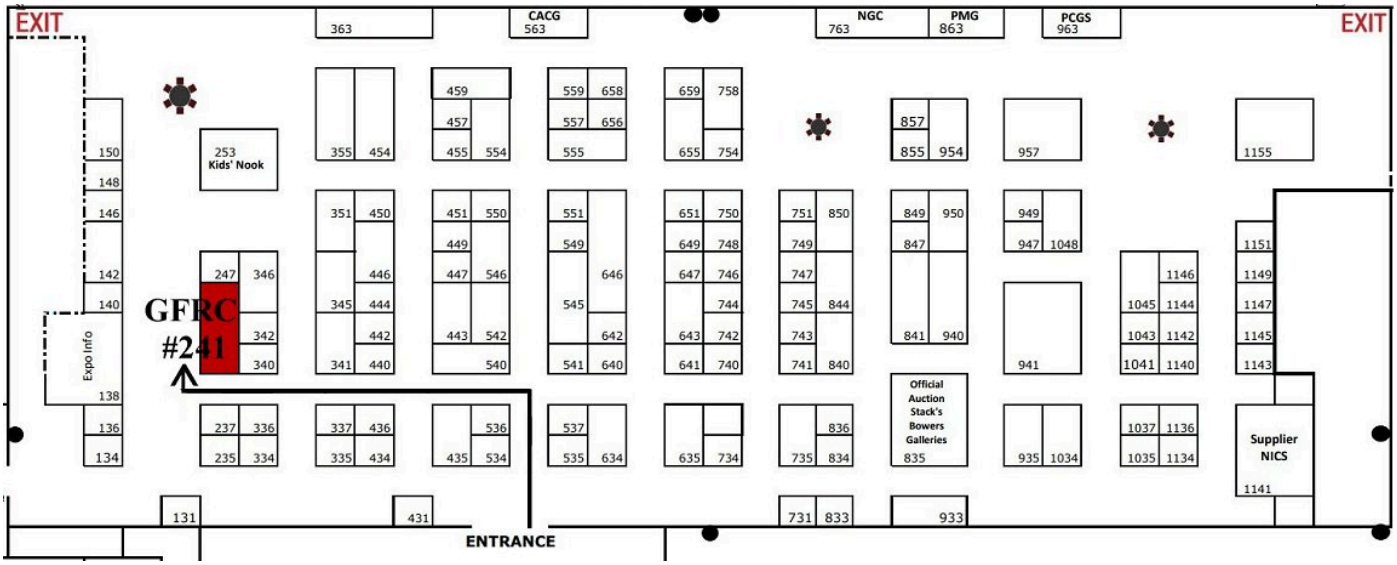
Friday also brought a Whitman confirmation email with GFRC's new booth location confirmation for the upcoming Summer Baltimore show that takes place on June 19 - 21. GFRC's double corner pretense has been moved to table location #241 which is on the left side of the bourse floor. Gone are the tables immediately right of the entrance at the inside wall.

GFRC has taken a substantial amount of booth space as our entire inventory will be on exhibit along with forthcoming GFRC Online Auctions displays of the Tom Coulombe Liberty Seated Dime Collection coupled with the Tenafly Collection of Liberty Seated Dimes and $5 Liberty Gold, the latter collection being 100% CAC approved. Both collections will be housed in four display cases with reserve price list handouts for those wishing to conduct auction lots viewing during the show.

Summer Baltimore Show - GFRC at Booth #241

Tom Coulombe Liberty Seated Dime Collection

Tenafly 100% CAC Approved Liberty Seated Dime and $5 Liberty Gold Collection



The 1860-O V-2 Half Dime Discussion

On Monday of the past week, Diane and I had the pleasure of spending time with Rich Hundertmark (GFRC-Lite) and his wife Susan at their Winston-Salem home. Rich was most excited to be able to share his Indian Cent collection along with his 2 Cent and 3 Cent Silver collections. The two numismatists spent roughly 1.5 hours viewing each of the coins with Gerry providing feedback on where upgrade possibilities might be considered. Rich's Indian cent collection is mostly PCGS MS64RB and MS65RB through the early dates with a strong number being CAC approved. His pre-1880 dates are very strong with a clear indication that the post 1880 dates, being much more common, were not pursued with the same vigor as the fantastic early dates.

The viewing session wrapped up with Rich pulling out a magnificent 1860-O V-2 half dimes with what I believe are unique obverse die diagnostics. Up to this point, I had never seen an 1860-O V-2 come through the GFRC office and was quite taken back by the counterstamp appearance of the "M" in DIME on the obverse with no other evidence of die clashing on either side. My mind was attempting to draw a die maintenance scenario where this type of select die clashing transfer to the obverse die could be possible.

After mentioning the 1860-O half dime in Friday's Blog, the current Liberty Seated half dime die variety expert, Alan Welty, contacted me followed by also going directly to Rich Hundertmark for the details. The two gentlemen chatted on the variety with both Alan and Rich reporting back for this Daily Blog report.

Rich shared the following via email and a discussion with Alan.

Hi Gerry,

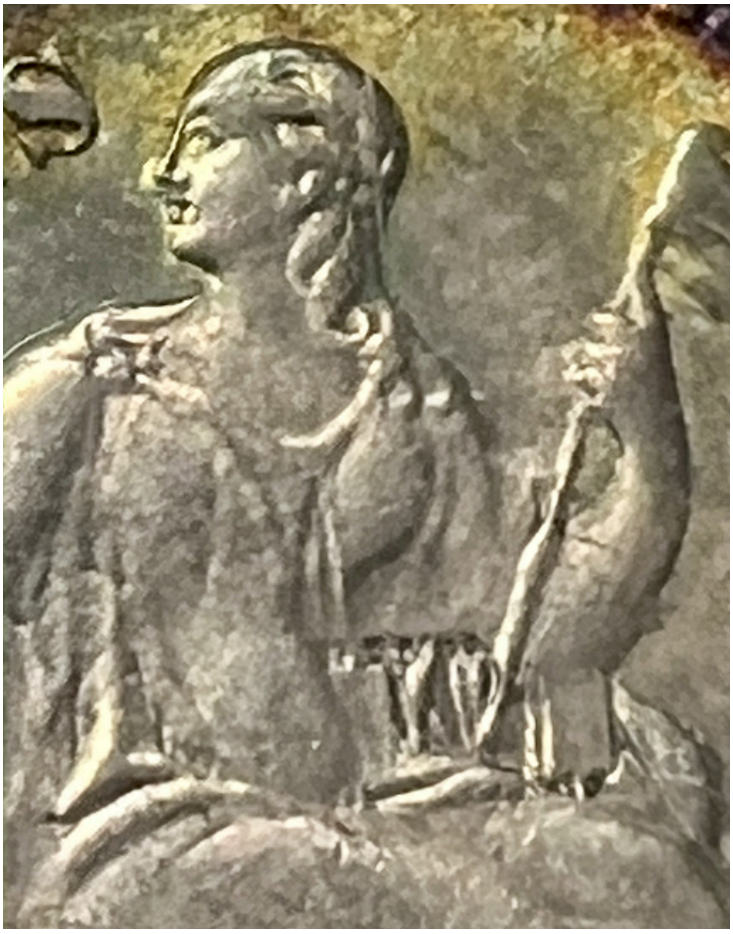
As follow up to the 1860-O V2 variety, Alan Welty read your blog and emailed me early this morning to see if he needed it, and if it was for sale. The Daily Blog is POWERFUL!!!!!

He has the variety, see attached, which is an NGC MS66 ex PCGS MS65. (PS- I like my coin better but that's just me).

Alan estimated the variety at 5% of the population. He also said that the only coin listed in Clint's register is his V2. Alan thought a Gobrecht article on this coin would be a good idea and could add a bit of publicity/excitement to the series.

Alan may stop by and discuss it with you in Baltimore. I also invited Alan to go to the Annandale show to photograph as his images are probably better than mine. Attached is a closeup, but I know this can be improved.

I'm going to also write to Clint Cummins; see what other info he has on the V2 and give him my coin's details so that he can add it to his register.



Afterwards, Alan Welty also sent along a report of the conversation which is shown next with a potential explanation for this die variety's unique appearance.

Hi Gerry,

Yeah, Rich's coin is pretty (he sent me photos), but I like mine too.

Where that bold clash of the M of DIME appears is an area that is fairly low relief and flattens out due to lapping in many issues. So it effectively becomes "field" and subject to clash marks. Traces of other letters of the denomination appear in low points of the gown and shield. That said, It does seem puzzlingly strong, and without much of the more common clash marks from the wreath, and without significant clashes on the reverse. Could they have done some peculiar die shaping, akin to basining, for either of those dies to make the obverse more susceptible to clash marks in the center?

Wrapping Up The Blog

As mentioned earlier in this Blog edition, today brings a full day in the GFRC office. If all goes to plan, I should be able to showcase Tom Coulombe's Liberty Seated Dime Collection contents via a presentation table at the Daily Blog's upper right come tomorrow morning. I've not used this custom html feature in a while and hope it works again.

Regular consignments are being committed with a new shipment schedule to arrive next week along with a quality four piece Liberty Seated half dollar lot that was delivered prior to our Florida departure.

Bottom line, there is ample amounts of new consignments to process along with two very strong auction lots. Let's see how far I can get today without distractions from the ongoing outdoor gravitational pull...

Thank you again for the visit. Be well!

May 30, 2025

I'm Still Pinching Myself....

Sad News from the Theriault Clan

and

We and the Porsche 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 Are Home in Maine

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a beautiful late spring Friday morning. The Fortins are back at the Maine homestead after a five day journey to and from Sarasota Suncoast Porsche. Somehow I managed to drive a 1700 mile road trip through a host of states and mountain roads without a speeding ticket that would have been justified.

The once in a lifetime story began on Saturday May 24th with early morning flights from Maine to Sarasota. Suncoast Porsche arranged for transport from SRQ to the dealership with an arrival at 11:20 AM or so. There was considerable anticipation when Diane and I walked into the showroom with our luggage. Our new 718 Boxster was quietly awaiting for its special unveiling as we sat down with Josh to go through the final round of sales discussions and reviewing the many purchased options. Suncoast Porsche had just received a shipment of 18 vehicles, including ours, with the showroom full of wonder cars including a Boxster Spyder and Cayman GT4 RS. The dealership showroom had been recently remodeled with a huge flat screen monitor on one of the walls. Josh was stalling a bit until 11:45 as a special posting on the monitor was scheduled. This image accurately shares the excitement and anticipation prior to the official unveiling.

After the photo opportunity, Josh pulled the shroud and exposed our custom built 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 to our amazement. Was this actually happening after months of waiting for the build and transport to the Sarasota dealership? The icing on the cake was no tariff issues to deal with as we paid the original build invoice agreed to in mid-January.

Once the unveiling was complete, Diane and I sat in our Porsche and started the car for the first time. The mid-engine 4.0L roared in the showroom much to our delight. Next came a short walk to the business manager's office to write that all important six figure check. Matt's office was located in a separate annex storage room with many other newly arrived builds. On the way in, Matt tells Diane to put a finger on one of the cars in the annex. After she touched the car, Matt informs Diane, with a smile, that she had just touched a $1,700,000 car! Yes, in the annex was a 918 Spyder Hypercar with eight cylinder engine and electric motors. I had seen a YouTube video of the hypercar and never

expected to see one in the flesh, but there it was waiting for its new owner. This was a "I'm still pinching myself" moment among several that day.

While in Matt's business office, Josh moved our 718 Boxster out of the showroom and into a shaded tunnel between the showroom and repair building. After writing the check and taking official possession, Josh and I sat in the car while the our cellphones were connected and the instrumentation was explained with a preliminary configuration installed. At that point, Josh suggested that we drive the car out front of the dealership for this memorable photograph. Yes, two kids with one heck of an amazing car that was a lifetime dream come true. Our hats go off to Josh Zuder for making us feel like part of the Porsche family as he had choreographed the event to a wonderful conclusion. Off we drove down RT 41 back to our Venice condo with perpetual smiles.

Sunday brought our usual morning health walk with the Venice temperature approaching 90F during the early morning hours before closing up the condo and starting a five day road trip back to Maine. Our first stop was in Fernandina Beach to introduce the Porsche to Dan and Patti, our long time IBM friends. They graciously moved Patti's Mercedes SUV out of their garage so that we could move the Boxster next to Dan's C8 Corvette. The evening brought heavy thunderstorms and downpours while we drank and ate with plans being developed for a joint extended cruise through Europe or south Asia.

The weather cleared on Monday morning as we started our 7.5 hour drive to Winston-Salem NC for a visit with Rich Hundertmark and his wife Susan. Rich shared his Indian cent, Large cent, and 3 Cent Silver collections before taking the Fortins to dinner. There will be a separate Blog on this visit including a truly special 1860-O half dime variety that I had never seen.

Tuesday was a washout as we drove from Winston-Salem to Wilkes-Barre PA. The original plan to double back to I-77 to catch I-81 through the mountains was scratched, rather we drove mostly back roads to Roanoke before catching I-81 further north. It poured while the 718 Boxster performed beautifully with its traction control. Once reaching PA, the rain let up with a pleasant drive through the mountainous I-81 stretch from the I-81/I-78 junction to Wilkes-Barre. I was finally able to open up the Porsche in winding mountain roads and simply amazed at its handling performance. Yes, a speeding ticket or two would have been justified...

Wednesday brought another trip highlight with a top down drive through Vermont's Green Mountains on Rt 9. The sun was high in the sky and the views was stunning. We arrived into Lebanon NH by mid-afternoon and checked into our next hotel for the evening.

Throughout the trip, Diane was staying close with her family as one of the older brothers, Richard, was in hospice care. A report and picture arrive that Richard had sat up in bed and started drinking water and chatting with several family members after being close to death earlier in the week. Thursday morning brought the sad news that Richard had passed in his sleep during the overnight hours. At this point, our plans for driving the Kangamangus Highway through the NH White Mountains was shelved to a later date. Instead with took highways back to our Raymond home so that Diane could unite with her family after Richard's passing. We arrived to the Maine homestead by 11:30 AM with so much to catch up with. I immediately headed to Windham for groceries along with procuring a double pail washing system with mitt and drying towels. It was cloudy and cool, therefore the best time to wash the accumulated road dirt and insect splats off the Boxster.

Wrapping Up The Blog

My sincere appreciation goes out to several GFRC clients who called or emailed to check in on our status since I had not posted in a Blog edition since May 23. This is the first time in a decade where I took a vacation without the laptop and feeling compelled to write each morning. It was a true holiday trip for the Fortins.

This morning brings light shipping along with washing and prepping the 1993 Miata for its sale. We will place the Miata at the top of our construction road with a For Sale sign once the car is cleaned and are hoping for a quick sale to clear the driveway. Sadly, the 1993 Miata has lost its garage spot to the Porsche and needs to find a new home just like my Liberty Seated Dime Collection. This afternoon brings a special appointment in Lewiston which will be the subject of yet another Daily Blog announcement.

Thank for returning and we will be talking numismatics at some point this weekend.

Be well!

May 23, 2025

GFRC Office Closed During Memorial Day Weekend

and

The Importance of Self Reliance

Greetings once again from southern Maine where are we are experiencing strong winds, 40 degree temps, and more rain. Other than that, life is just great!

As I've often mentioned in the Blog, rain is a blessing as it nurtures life. Our landscaping has transformed it every imaginable shade of green throughout the property due to the ongoing moisture. Weeds are sprouting everywhere too and will need to be address once back from our Memorial Day weekend holiday to retrieve the Porsche 718 Boxster. The anticipation is beginning to set in after a Florida to Maine transition followed by the Session 3 Auction Sale. I've been quite focused on a host of business and homestead activities and attempting to get as much done as possible prior to our departure for a few days. Once we are back home with the Boxster, the following week bring Dave Wilkinson back on site for three days. His presence, with a capable excavator, will again transform the view from the back deck as we are clearing incremental bush/trees towards exposing an original settlers stone wall and building yet another decorative stone wall. Call it an infatuation with stone walls or whatever. Sometimes, I refer to the back acreage as a personal canvas by which a natural painting is being created. Instead of working with different paint colors, the canvas is being shaped with physical attributes. I just find stone walls to be idyllic within the context of a rural Raymond Maine settings. Raymond is well known among local contractors for being a glacial area with excessive amounts of broken up granite.

Changing topics, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Big, Beautiful Bill which does little to curb deficit spending in the near term. This fact and the recent Moody's credit rating downgrade have shown a spotlight on the looming credit dilemma that is expanding before our eyes. It appears that "kicking the can do the road" best describes the predicament. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield has pulled back slightly to 4.53% as the Blog is composed. Spot gold is trending at $3330/oz with silver at $33.11 leading to an approximate 100 gold/silver ratio. To put things in perspective, if you had asked me if gold would be above $3300/oz on year ago during Memorial Day 2024, I would have thought that this could be quite a stretch since gold was trending at $2350/oz at that time. A tad under 50% increase in one year is a substantial feat but there is precedence given Bitcoin's accelerating value. The below Kitco one year gold chart illustrates where we have come in just 52 weeks. Does a $4000-$4500 number seem plausible in the coming 52 weeks given that U.S. deficit spending will accelerate rather than being curtailed?

Let's move ahead to today's headline topics.

GFRC Office Closed During Memorial Day Weekend

As indicated in Wednesday's Blog, GFRC will be closing for the Memorial Day weekend effective tomorrow morning. This will be a hard close including a break from composing the Daily Blog. Our focus will be on the 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 unveiling at Sarasota Porsche come tomorrow afternoon followed by writing a substantial check to close the purchase. Saturday evening brings our 45th anniversary celebration at our favorite seafood restaurant in nearby Osprey. Sunday brings the first day of northern driving to Fernandina Beach to hang out with Dan and Patti, our IBM friends dating back to the late 1980s. The new 718 Boxster will be introduced to Dan's C8 Corvette and hopefully it will be love at first sight. The balance of the return trip to Maine has been meticulously planned as we move the Boxster through its break-in period. Hopefully the weather will allow some portions of the trip to be in top down mode.

I will be monitoring GFRC orders and other communications while traveling but typically at the end of day via cellphone.

The Importance of Self Reliance

Today's second headline topic was triggered by an email that arrived from a GFRC community member who became motivated by yesterday's wood stove display and the importance of this simple piece of steel in guaranteeing that the homestead is always warm no matter what Mother Nature might have in store for northern New England. Now that the Tesla Powerwall3 centric solar system is fully debugged, we also have a source of electricity to keep the furnace and water well pump operating during a crisis. For Blog readers who are considering some basic backup power, the new Jackery and Bluetti power stations have seen price reductions to the $0.50/KWhr level if purchasing during Memorial Day sales events.

What about a Generac power generator with the need for a propane tank or natural gas connection? Out of curiosity, I asked AI CoPilot a simple question, namely "what are the Generac failure risks during a crisis? Following was the response.

Generac generators have faced reliability concerns during crises, particularly in extreme weather events. A recent class action lawsuit alleges that certain Generac standby generators have a hidden defect that causes them to fail during power outages, despite being marketed as reliable backup power. The issue reportedly stems from slip rings and carbon brushes wearing out quickly, leading to generator failure when power is most needed. Some consumers have reported their generators failing within minutes of activation during hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Additionally, Generac emphasizes the importance of proper maintenance for extended use during major outages. Continuous operation requires regular oil checks, cooling periods, and adherence to shutdown procedures to prevent damage. Without these precautions, generators may experience performance issues or premature failure.

In today's "modern" and internet centric way of life, it is assumed that the power grid will always be functional. That is a reasonable assumptions for those in society who have never experienced an extended grid system failure. For those of us who have been without electrical power for a week of more, the importance of self reliance cannot be understated. Our comfortable way of life experiences a dramatic upheaval in the matter of hours once electrical supply disappears. Factoring self reliance into our lifestyles is a prudent step similar to allocating a small portion of personal wealth to gold.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings an office day given mid-40s and on and off rain in the forecast. I will be available for price list purchases or other related numismatic correspondence.

We will see you on the other side of the Memorial Day weekend. Thank you so much for sharing your numismatic hobby needs with us.

Be well!

May 22, 2025

Maine Life - Burning Wood in Late May

GFRC Office Closed During Memorial Day Weekend

and

Price Reductions on the 30 Day Price List

Greetings on a cold and windy southern Maine morning as we barrel towards Memorial Day weekend. Thank you for the visit.

As opposed to the nearly constant Venice Florida sunshine, Maine spring weather has proven to be quite cold this year. I awoke early this morning with the outdoor temperature at 44F under thick clouds. Rain is forthcoming today with the high only reaching 49 degrees. The overnight will bring even colder temperatures at 40F. This is a terrible year for spring farmers as the ground continues to be water logged as there has been little in terms of sunshine and warmth to dry out the earth. The cold and wet conditions will not improve until Sunday at the earliest.

The first action of the day was starting the wood stove and placing a comfortable warmth into the homestead for the next 48 hours. There is an ample supply of dry firewood in the garage with never a worry about replenishing the stock given an entire of forest to work with. During the past several years, we have given away much more wood that consumed in our trusty Vermont Casting stove in the great room. This small stove was part of the 1985 homestead build along with the donation of a firewood storage box from long ago friends. Unless outdoors temperatures dropped below 0F, this small stove is able to heat the entire dwelling since a passive solar and super insulated design.

A quick check of the morning precious metal, bond, and equity markets indicates more volatility. It appears that the U.S. bond market is now the driving factor to be watched. Yesterday brought a weakly subscribed 20 Year Treasury bond auction with yields jumping to 5.1%. The reaction was swift with equities falling by 1.5-2.0% during the afternoon hours. The 10 Year Treasury yield has climbed to 4.62% as of 7:45 AM. Gold and silver are taking a spill with gold back down below the $3300 mark in London trading. Equities, on the other hand, are forecasted to open fractionally higher come 9:30 AM.

Yesterday brought more auction shipments along with loading a portion of the Tom Coulombe Liberty Seated Dime Collection into the COIN system prior to heading to Portland for a dentist appointment. Prior to driving to that appointment, I was on the old Marcy Monster gem in the basement utility room that has come back to life after being unused for several decades. Exercise is a key component of delayed physical aging thus the resurrection of this machine and a new exercising regiment.

I continue to be amazed at the speed of life and how each day is fully consumed. Are the "retirement years" suppose to be like this?

GFRC Office Closed During Memorial Day Weekend

I'm not in an overly creative mood this morning, rather feeling a bit relaxed given that the GFRC office will be experience a hard shutdown for the three day Memorial Day weekend. Yes, a hard shutdown with only a cellphone as a communication device while we are traveling.

The GFRC office will be closed from Friday through Tuesday of next week including no Daily Blog being published. After years of consistently preparing a Blog edition like clockwork, I am taking a much deserve break and seeing what life is like without the compulsory early morning time at a laptop keyboard for several days. Sure, I will be monitoring emails on the cellphone and will respond to new orders as promptly as possible throughout the Memorial Day weekend. Response times might be a bit protracted however.

Price Reductions on the 30 Day Price List

Another round of price reductions have been posted to the 30 Day Price List for those who enjoy the value shopping process. Among the discounted lots are two CAC approved eye appealing Barber lots that warrant consideration at their reduced levels.

Notable 10% Barber Price Reductions

1901-O PCGS VF25 CAC 25C - $630

1910-S PCGS AU55 CAC 25C - $750

Wrapping Up The Blog

OK, I've attempted to ramble along as much as possible during the past hour. Today bring a full day in the GFRC office loading the balance of the Tom Coulombe Seated dimes into the COIN system along with establishing the Fortin die variety numbers and maybe, just maybe, a first shot at reserve prices. Photography is out of the question until I am back into the office next week given the constant overcast.

Let's close with a sincere thank you to everyone who frequents the Daily Blog. I hoped that today's edition would be a bit more exciting but that is not the case.

Be well!

May 21, 2025

Gerry Fortin Session 3 Auction 1850-O Dime is on Hold

Spot Gold Back Over $3300

and

US Debt Clock.org - Government Financials on Steroids

Greetings from southern Maine on a cold (44F) and cloudy Wednesday morning. Thank you for returning to the Daily Blog for another round of unpredictable ramblings.

Tuesday brought a truly productive day in the GFRC office along with homestead spring maintenance tasks. Let's start with the GFRC office report...

In the matter of three hours, Diane and I were able to pack and ship 18 outgoing price list and auction orders. After working as a team for years, and refining our production process, we've arrived to a point of maximum efficiency in how the individual shipping tasks are allocated between us. The first step is Gerry preparing post it notes with the nature of the purchase and payment approach. Afterwards, USPS shipping labels are purchased, printed, and placed into each shipping box. At this point, Diane takes over with receipt writing and taping the shipping label onto the padded Priority or Express envelopes. The coins are placed into our signature packing method with a hand off to Gerry who then finalizes the outgoing shipment with packing material and taping the padded envelope shut. On days like Tuesday, it is much easier to simply bring the shipments to the local post office than trying to have Doug the Mailman attempt a pick-up.

After lunch and responding to morning emails, the balance of the afternoon was spent outdoors. During the morning hours, Dave Wilkinson delivered a beautiful 16 yards of dark mulch in a newly designated location by the stone lined construction path. 16 yards is a lot of mulch, but then again, there is much surface area within our landscaping that needs to be tendered to. I digressed...

The first task was raking long rows of lawn clippings and moving into our huge compost pile by the barn. Next came moving a water cooler from the homestead winter storage to the barn to ensure that the internal plumbing is not destroyed by the winter freeze. At this point, there is fresh drinking water in the barn. Field mice are an ongoing issue here in the country with twelve large bait boxes strategically placed around buildings. Those boxes were opened and given fresh bait. It appears that we are making progress in controlling the mice population as the baits were only partially consumed during the winter months. Afterwards, I jumped on Johnny2 with chains in the front loader. The goal was moving our backup Honda gas generator from the house to storage in the barn since the Tesla Powerwall3 system is now our full time power backup solution. Yes, I did place gas stabilizer in the tank and let the generator run for 5 or minutes before placing into storage. Using a chain, the generator was lifted by Johnny2's front loader and transported to the barn. Finally, five Johnny2 bucket loads of mulch were transported and spread across the decorative landscaping at the top of our driveway. All of these tasks were completed in four hours as Diane and I have as hard 5:00 PM stop for Happy Hour every day.

Let's move forward with the headline topics.

Gerry Fortin Session 3 Auction 1850-O Dime is on Hold

I'm pleased to report that the 1850-O F-103 Small O NGC MS67 Star dime is now on hold after accepting a $25,000 offer on Tuesday with immediate payment. This amazing dime is heading into one of the top two Liberty Seated dime variety collections currently being assembled.

1850-O F-103 NGC MS67 Star 10C - Sold at $25,000

Yes, both Aaron and I are willing to deal on the remaining unsold lots in the Session 3 Auction Sale. Our goal continues to be the placement of these magnificent coins into private collections. If discounting lots, our requirement is immediate payment. Please consider accordingly.

Spot Gold Back Over $3300

Spot gold has gained over $100/oz since the Moody's downgrade of U.S. debt. This morning's quote, as of 7:00 AM ET, is $3315/oz. If looking at gold from a technical perspective, the near term floor now appears to be $3200. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is trying to dismiss the debt rating downgrade but the 10 Year Treasury yield has increased to 4.5% with the 30 Year bond now at 5.0%. The U.S. dollar is now back under 100 as other global currencies make gains.

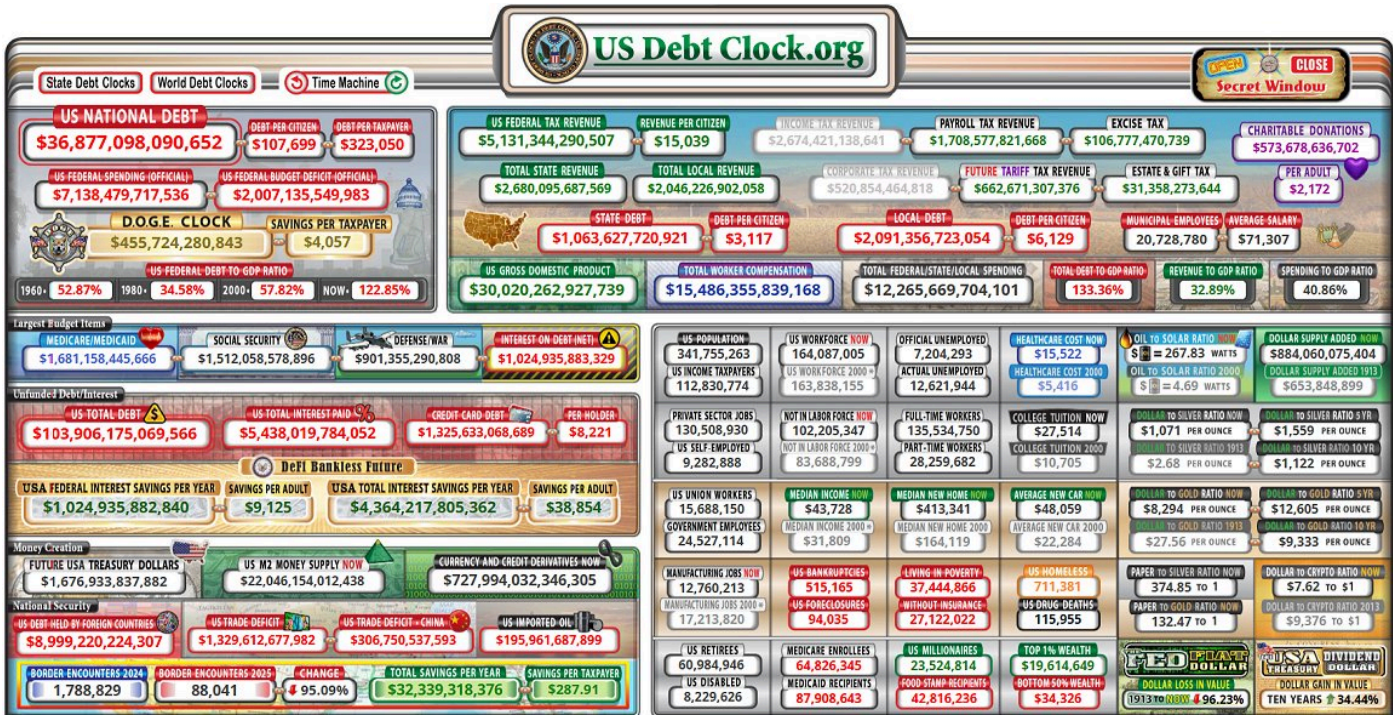
For Blog readers who wish to leverage the appreciation potential of gold and silver precious metals in a more substantial manner, please take a look at the mining sector. Global gold and silver mining output continues to slowly decrease as known reserves are consumed while global demand for these metals is climbing. We are well aware that silver has been in a deficit situation for the past several years due to increased electronics industry and solar panel manufacturing demand.

The Fortins are presently invested in multiple mining companies including PAAS, IAG, AGI, WPM, AEM, and KGC. I've shunned the major ETFs like GDX and GDXJ as these funds contain a broad basket of miners, some with less than stellar performance records. It does not take that much research to learn which miners are above average investments. The key parameters are mine jurisdictions, proven reserves, and all in cost per ounce mined.

As always, please do your own research as the Daily Blog is not meant to provide financial or investment advice. Rather, this is a report on how the Fortins are positioned in terms of precious metals after careful considerations.

US Debt Clock.org - Government Financials on Steroids

If wishing to conduct fast paced research of the financial status of the United States, the best approach is to visit the USDebtClock.org website. This website is a gem with respect to government spending and revenues at the national, state, and local levels. The numbers are truly astounding and eye opening. The website continues to evolve with an ever increasing amount of information including the breakdown of individual state GDPs and deficit spending along with precious metal, housing market, and car sales statistics. Moving your mouse over any of the statistic boxes brings about a definition of that statistic within the top US Debt Clock.org box. Look carefully at the bottom of the website to find other important statistics. These boxes have been truncated by my screen capture.



I could spend hours commenting on the host of relevant statistics offered by this website but let's leave that for another day.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings incremental shipping during the morning hours followed by a dentist appointment during the afternoon. I will be monitoring the usual GFRC email traffic and orders throughout the day.

Thank you again for hanging out at the Daily Blog. There are days where the content simply materializes out of thin air, while other days are a struggle. This was a good day.

Be well!

May 20, 2025

Burning the Wood Stove in Late May?

and

GFRC Shipping Department in High Gear

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Tuesday morning. We appreciated the many readers who frequent these ongoing ramblings.

Let's start with a short recap of yesterday's annual physical. I'm in great health with a blood pressure reading of 136/68. All is fine as Diane and I barrel towards the big 70.

As the opening headline indicates, the 2025 Maine spring has been downright wet and cold. I awoke to a morning temp of 48F with thick clouds. Today's high will only reach 55 degrees with ongoing cloud cover. Immediately after today's Blog edition is uploaded, I'm starting the wood stove to take the chill out of the homestead followed by warming up our thermal mass in the great room for extended warmth. The balance of the week does not look much better. I can't remember the last time that the wood stove was employed this close to Memorial Day weekend. However, when growing up, there are memories of wearing winter jackets for watching the July 4th fireworks. Northern New England weather can be unpredictable as is the case for the spring of 2025.

GFRC Shipping Department in High Gear

There is little new to share today as Monday afternoon was dedicated to kitting Session 3 Auction Sale lots into shipping packages and working through payment plans with the winning bidders. At GFRC, we pride ourselves in providing personalized service which was the case on Monday. Several clients are traveling and required delayed shipments. Three winning bidders added incremental purchases from the regular price list or made an offer on an unsold Session 3 lot (which was successfully negotiated). Then there are those individuals who took advantage of extended payment terms which require another round of invoicing documentation. By 5:00, the day's Happy Hour was relished as I was mentally exhausted after an intense five hours of admin and back and forth with clients.

Today's priority is shipping both accumulated price list orders and auction lot ship aheads. We are seeing an elevated usage of Deluxe eCheck payments along with Zelle, PayPal F&F, and wire transfers rather than the traditional paper check route with unpredictable USPS 1st class mail deliveries. These electronic payment methods have facilitated a substantial number of immediate payments with fewer lots going out on a ship ahead basis. Everyone who has tendered an electronic payment will be seeing their auction winnings shipped today unless otherwise instructed.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's wrap up today's edition at this point as there is little else to ramble about.

Today brings another busy day as already mentioned along with attempting to remove rows of lawn grass clippings as I was able to mow the lawn on Sunday afternoon in a 2 hour window without rain. However, the rain appeared before I could clear the grass clippings. Hopefully, this delayed task can be accomplished later this afternoon. On a positive note, the cold temperatures are limiting the traditional black fly season.

Thanks as always for stopping by. There are days that bring entertaining content or cool visuals. Sorry, but today is just not one of those days are we are back to basics here in southern Maine.

Be well!

May 19, 2025

Will Moody's U.S. Debt Downgrade Impact Gold?

Greetings on a Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning after the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale wrap up.

Today's Blog will be brief as there must get done items before a 10:00 AM annual physical.

Firstly, nearly all of the Session 3 invoices have been issued with three remaining to get done as of 6:30 AM Monday. I will try to get these out before heading to the doctor's office. Unsold lots have been posted to the 30 Day Price List.

Secondly, there is no shipping today for the same reason. Rather, Tuesday will bring a substantial morning for the shipping department with paid for orders and auction sale ship aheads.

Let's shift to today's headline topic if we could...

Will Moody's U.S. Debt Downgrade Impact Gold?

After Friday's U.S. stock market closing bell, Moody's issued a downgrade of U.S. debt from AAA to Aa1, a one notch downgrade. The move by Moody's should not be taken lightly as the United States no longer has an AAA credit worthiness rating across the three debt rating agencies. The first downgrade came in 2011 by Standard & Poor's followed by Fitch during 2023. Now Moody's is the last of the three to strip the U.S. of its AAA bond rating.

The core issue is the ongoing growth of U.S. debt. As much as DOGE has attempted to locate and cut Federal government waste, the effort has not produced anticipated results. Some notable headlines were generated for the media but the amounts saved are estimated to be between $160 to $300 billion. The "saved" monies will essentially offset the increase in planned U.S. defense spending. Therefore a net net to the overall U.S. budget.

I've been watching the initial impact on the financial markets this morning. The key market to watch is the bond market and pricing of 10 year Treasury notes as this instrument is a benchmark for setting other interest rates within the U.S. economy. As of 6:30 AM ET, the 10 year yield has increased to 4.54% while the 30 year has exceeded 5.0%. The incremental cost to refinance the U.S. deficit up for renewal this year cannot be understated.

Without sufficient fiscal control, the U.S. deficit will continue to climb faster than GDP leading to Treasury bonds being seen as having counterparty risks. Increasing yields result in lower bond values during buying and selling trades.

Since the U.S. dollar and gold are the only Tier 1 monetary assets on the planet, a complete downgrade of the credit worthiness of the United States should be favorable for gold. In the past week, gold has been in a consolidation pattern with several drops to the $3200 level, one of which came on Friday. During morning trading in London, gold has increased top $3240 with silver at $32.53. These numbers are nothing out of the ordinary. U.S. equity markets have turned bearish during premarket trading with the S&P down by 1.23%. Again, this type of move is typical of the recent volatility.

Blog readers should also be aware that the next BRICS Summit takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on July 6-7, 2025. I asked AI Copilot for details of the BRICS agenda with the following commentary. The second agenda item should be of keen interest as China, Russia, and India are the main players.

The 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro will focus on several key priorities, including:

- Global Health Cooperation – Ensuring equitable access to medicines and vaccines.
- Trade, Investment, and Finance – Strengthening financial market reforms and promoting the use of local currencies.
- Climate Change – Launching a BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda.
- Artificial Intelligence Governance – Establishing responsible AI governance frameworks.
- Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture – Reforming global peace and security systems.
- Institutional Development – Enhancing BRICS governance and decision-making.

Brazil, as the BRICS Chair, is also coordinating over 100 ministerial and technical meetings leading up to the summit to solidify collaborative efforts.

Wrapping Up The Blog

I really need to wrap up today's ramblings at this point given the day's schedule constraint. Things will be back to normal on Tuesday morning.

Thank you for checking in and please be well!

May 18, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - A Wild Auction Finale!

Greetings on a post Session 3 Auction close morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning for another round of numismatic ramblings.

Let's open today's Blog edition with a bit of a twist. I asked AI Copilot to prepare a short discussion concerning "a wild auction finale" since this is what the GFRC community viewed last evening. The bidding for several lots within my personal Liberty Seated Dime collection was indeed "wild". The AI Copilot prose is appropriate...

When the final moments of a high-stakes auction approach, the atmosphere shifts dramatically. What started as a measured exchange quickly transforms into a battle of determination, strategy, and adrenaline. Bidders—once composed—now find themselves locked in a fierce competition, eyes darting between rivals and the auctioneer, each increment raising both the price and the tension.

A wild auction finale isn't just about securing a coveted item; it's about perseverance, quick thinking, and sometimes, sheer audacity. The thrill of outbidding an opponent at the last second, the agony of watching one's budget slip just beyond reach—these emotions fuel the electric energy in the room. Whether it's rare art, vintage memorabilia, or an exclusive experience, the final bids often carry an intensity that keeps spectators on edge.

And when the hammer finally falls, a mix of cheers and groans ripple through the crowd. For some, it's triumph; for others, a hard-fought loss. But in every case, a wild auction finale proves one thing—it's never just about the item. It's about the chase.

Yes, based on conversations with several bidders, prior to the auction close, I'm certain that there is a bit of disappointment this morning as several unexpected bidders emerged during the closing minutes and boldly secured sought after lots. Even Diane, who monitors the incoming bids on her cellphone, was amazed at the final bids. What started as a slow final Connoisseur's Auction Sale shifted into a fierce competition. On a very positive note, nearly all of the Session 3 lots are heading into GFRC community collection.

On a personal basis, this morning feels bittersweet. My personal collection has seen three auction sessions with most of the Seated dimes finding new homes. Those that did not will be heading to the price list and I will be open to offers. The unsold Newtown Liberty Seated halves will also be heading to the 30 Day Price List, hopefully by the end of the day.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - A Wild Auction Finale!

Let's dive into the closing auction statistics...

When the clock struck 9:00 PM ET, 54 of the 78 lots had secured new homes, an impressed 69% sell through rate. This outcome surpassed the usual 60% threshold by a decent margin and we could not be more pleased.

Total sales amounted to $380,617 which is 53% of initial reserves. The auction sale bias towards lower reserved coins was quite evident during the Session 3 sale. For curious minds, the Fortin dime tally achieved $243,000 at the auction close along with the 1886-S dime being immediately sold at its reserve price within an hour of the auction close.

Four Liberty Seated dime lots garnered intense bidding and deserve a shout out due to their winning tallies. Am I surprised by these numbers? Yes and no. The 1858-O dime was expected to sell for a strong number given its lack of any prior auction records and old time rattler holder. It certainly did not disappoint. The 1861-S dime secured proper recognition of its true rarity at the Mint State level with an appropriate winning bid. The 1865-S dime has been one of my ongoing favorites since acquired during the late 1990s due to a completely full head strike for the F-101 die pairing. Frankly, this dime should not exist with this type of strike but Eliasberg managed to secure this example. Finally, the winning tally for the 1888 Gold CAC dime is sweet and a validation of my numismatic intuition way back during 2007. This piece brought in excess of MS67 CAC price guide monies and deservedly so.

Congratulations to the winning bidders for these four lots, well done!

1858-O F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $15,750

1861-S F-101 PCGS MS62 CAC 10C - $20,069

1865-S F-101 PCGS MS63 CAC 10C - $25,500

1888 Unlisted PCGS MS66 Gold CAC 10C - $8401

A sincere thank you goes out to the many collectors who supported this event and took home some mighty fine 19th century Liberty Seated numismatic lots. May the Fortin and Heintz coins grace your collections for years to come.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings the usual post auction Sunday administrative activities. The first step is loading all winning bids/bidder IDs into the COIN system. Once that task is completed, invoice preparations will take place followed by notifying winning bidders via email. After the winning bidders are invoiced, the unsold lots will migrate to the 30 Day Price List and to Collectors Corner for the next stage of marketing and sales.

There will be no ship aheads on Monday morning as I have an early annual health physical appointment to contend with. The balance of the day will be dedicated to extended payment discussions and documentation. Come Tuesday, ship aheads will probably begin for those bidders who can tender full payments.

Let's close with a final round of congratulations to all the Session 3 Auction Sale winning bidders. Please stay close to the Daily Blog as my attention will shift to the forthcoming Tom Coulombe and Tom Hubschman auction sale event that is just a few months away. Of course, there will be reporting on the 718 Boxster and the early June back acreage developments once Dave Wilkinson is on site with his excavator.

Thanks again and please be well!

May 17, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - The Finale is Hours Away!

Greetings on a mid-May Saturday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for checking back on this important day.

The Maine homestead will be an absolutely beehive of activity starting tomorrow morning and through late June. Yes, the Fortins will be taking an extended holiday to return to Florida to retrieve the 718 Boxster with an inaugural road trip back to Maine. During that adventure, the GFRC business will have a hard close including no Daily Blog editions as we are traveling lite without the laptop. As you can imagine, the Porsche Boxster has limited trunk space. Sunday brings a full day of post auction administration including the invoicing of all won lots. Come next week, there is an annual physical, initial auction ship aheads, and the documentation of extended payments terms. Once back from the road trip, Dave Wilkinson returns with his trusty excavator for another few days of further improving the coastal horizon view from the back deck. If that was not enough, Diane has hired Pete Theberge (our barn builder) to remove an old hot tub from the sun room towards creating play space for the forthcoming Matt and Renee family visits during early July. Finally, the end of June brings the Whitman Baltimore show and the first round of auction lot viewing for the Tom Coulombe and Tom Hubschmans Collections.

Are we exhausted yet? Being fully engaged appears to be the Fortin way of enjoying a fulfilling lifestyle.

Today brings a huge day for both myself and Aaron Heintz as the grand auction finale approaches in the matter of hours. I clearly remember when Aaron and his son traveled to the 2024 Summer Baltimore show to transfer his Liberty Seated half dollar collection on a Saturday morning. It has been a remarkable one year journey of photography, description writing, reserve price formulations, and auction catalog production with lot viewing session at the 2024 Summer ANA in Chicago, the 2024 Fall Whitman Baltimore show, and the 2025 Winter FUN show. A shout out goes to Len Augsburger for his description writing and overall marketing efforts within his sphere of contacts.

Yes, the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale finale will be historical for our humble business. Let's move forward with the current auction statistics, shall we?

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - The Finale is Hours Away!

Friday brought a substantial improvement in the Session 3 auction statistics. Though the sale started at a slower pace than expected, it appears that the community played catch-up on Friday with strong bidding.

As of the Blog composition, 40 lots have found new homes. Of course, which homes will be decided come 9:00 PM ET this evening. We currently stand at a 51% sell through rate with an even odds possibility that the targeted 60% sell through rate might be achieved. If GFRC Online Auctions history repeats itself, we should be able to meet and probably exceed the 60% threshold.

In terms of total winning bids, the Fortin and Newtown lots are running neck and neck within a $1000 of each other. How does this happen? Total bids are presently at $257,455 which is only 36% of the initial reserves. Friday's bidding was primarily for lower reserved lots with most five figure offerings still seeking that initial bid.

Do I have a prediction for how the auction will close in just 13 hours? Let's just say that we will achieve the 60% sell through milestone with a total winning bids approaching $350,000. If we achieve this outcome, there will still be a host of premium Liberty Seated dimes and halves moving to the 30 Day Price List followed by being posted to Collectors Corner come late Sunday. All unsold lots will be for sale at the Whitman Baltimore show and the World's Fair of Money Show, this year in Oklahoma City.

Let's take a look at five Newtown Liberty Seated halves that remain as free agents while definitely warranting a much needed shout out in today's Blog.

We start with a magnificent 1870 WB-7 half that was selected as the Newtown auction banner plate coin. The overall eye appeal is compelling to say the least with an exceptional strike. This example is tied for Finest Known at CAC with none finer and a reserve price that is grounded by a prior Heritage auction record. Passionate Seated half dollar collection should spoil themselves and make a play for this lot. You only live once, right?

1870 WB-7 PCGS MS65+ CAC 50C - $12,500

Gem Original, Newtown Collection. Satiny luster flows from brilliant centers, leading toward attractive rim toning with blue-green and russet patina evident in the stars and legend. The eye appeal is undeniable, and it is hard to imagine a more aesthetically pleasing piece for the grade. The strike is exceptional, with complete detail throughout. WB-7, with a reverse die lump between W and E. The 1870 half is a somewhat scarcer issue in the series, with less than a million pieces struck, but in this case the visual “pop” is the controlling factor, and the next owner will be justifiably proud. CAC has certified 32 pieces, with two coins in MS65 and none finer. PCGS has approved only one higher example, at MS67. The CAC guide value is $10,500. This coin is not inexpensive, but the combination of condition census placement and superb in-hand appeal is hard to beat. Ex. Heritage (August 2023, lot 3595), realized $12,000. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2024) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #6327.

Classical eye appeal is readily evident for this 1872 WB-6 half with brilliant radiance. Len discusses the visual "pop" of this coin and he is assuredly correct as I view this lot under my office desk lamp. This is a piece of the discriminating collector and will not disappoint.

1872 WB-6 PCGS MS65+ CAXC 50C - $9500

Gem Original, Newtown Collection. Blazing surfaces reveal hints of maroon color at the rim, and the overall flash of this GFRC rated-Gem example is considerable. Fully brilliant fields exhibit only a few ticks, consistent with the grade. Abundant luster is frosty, with some reflectivity evident as the coin is tilted. The strike is complete, with strong details on both sides. WB-6, with the date punched noticeably to the right. Collecting is always a matter of taste – some numismatists prefer colorful silver coins while others are fanatics about strong strikes. The visual “pop” of the present offering will especially appeal to those for whom luster is the primary attribute of interest. CAC has certified 30 coins in all grades, two pieces in MS65, and two example finer, both in MS66. The CAC price guide is $8,250, advancing to $12,000 in MS66. Ex. Boylston (Legend, Regency Auction 44, April 2021), lot 57, realized $9,106.25. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #6333.

Aaron was most selective with his Seated half dollar acquisitions and scored an extraordinary 1872-S with mirrored surfaces and wild patination. Though not inexpensive, this lot is an unquestionable gem with remarkable visuals.

1872-S WB-1 PCGS MS65 CAC 50C - $20,000

Gem Original, Newtown Collection. This wildly reflective half is a multi-colored headlight and reveals a full spectrum of color atop the prooflike surfaces. A golden obverse skin hosts blue-green and russet shades while the reverse exhibits rings of violet and blue, leading to gold rims. The obverse represents the very definition of "skin," which has the appearance of a foil that one might peel back. Apart from a few light marks in the right obverse field, the surfaces are near-perfect. WB-1, with the 1 in the date centered over three dentils, while the mintmark is small and wide. A strong strike completely defines the stars. PCGS reports three examples in MS65 with a single MS66+ piece finer. CAC notes 20 pieces total, two coins at MS65 (including this) and two examples at MS66. The CAC price guide value is $17,300. While collectors may alternately be drawn toward either Mint State or proof formats, this colorful, flashy piece is a reminder that business strikes can come with highly prooflike finish. Ex. Branch Mint Collection (GFRC, July 2021), at $21,105. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #6335.

Acquiring a series key date is always a sole searching decision due to the financial outlay and ensuring the appropriate selection for appreciation potential in the coming years. The significance of this offering is obvious as locating condition census key dates brings that all important numismatic opportunity that the bold among us will act upon.

1874-CC WB-3 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $37,500

Near-Gem Original, Newtown Collection. Along with the 1870-CC and 1878-CC, the 1874-CC is one of the keys to Carson City half dollar set. Few pieces survived from the small mintage of 59,000 pieces and today examples in all grades are highly prized. This piece exhibits even, medium gray toning, with hints of gold, russet, and blue more evident as the coin is tilted under a light. Moderate cartwheel radiates from both sides, a touch more actively on the reverse. WB-3, with a die lump below the curl and a diagonal die line through (STAT)ES. The mintmark is small with close spacing and slopes upward. Well struck with star centers evident and typical softness in the left claws. CAC has approved 47 coins total, a single piece in MS63 (the present coin), two examples at MS64, and a single coin at MS65. PCGS reports three higher pieces in MS64, one coin in MS65 and one example in MS66. The CAC price guide value is $37,400 while PCGS is a tick higher at $37,500. The significance of this offering is hard to overstate, as Carson City pieces are among the most desirable issues in the Seated series. This piece combines the all-important CC mintmark with key date status and a strong technical grade. As if that were not enough, CAC endorses this example as premium for the grade. The new owner of this special coin will be exceptionally pleased. Ex. GFRC (August 2021), at $35,000, previously from the Milford Collection (Heritage 1/2011, lot 5565), realized $26,450. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.5 (2012-2013) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #6347.

So far, the low mintage Philadelphia issues from 1879 through 1890 have been nicely subscribed in the Session 3 sale. This 1884 lot brings incredible eye appeal and a dual sided finish with frosty obverse and reflective reverse at a fair reserve. The D.L. Hansen pedigree adds importance.

1884 PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $7500

Gem Original, Newtown Collection. Frosty obverse luster pairs with more reflective flash on the reverse, and one can imagine the coiner lightly polishing the reverse die just prior to striking this piece. The obverse reveals greenish-olive patina framed by intense russet color at the stars, while the reverse exhibits more uniform evergreen shade throughout. The head is completely detailed, while the area beneath the reverse shield is somewhat soft. The Philadelphia Mint coined just 4,400 pieces in this year, a quantity tied with the 1882 issue as the lowest production total during the 1879-1890 low mintage run. CAC has approved 48 pieces total, seven coins in MS66, and eight examples finer. The CAC guide value is $7,500. Ex. Oregon Beaver Collection (GFRC, March 2022), at $8,500. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.6 (2013-2014) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #6366.

I've been blessed with the opportunity to market and sell the Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection in conjunction with my own personal Liberty Seated dime collection. It all comes down to the finale that begins at roughly 8:00 PM and concludes one hour later with the usual flurry of bids during the last 15 minutes. At this point, I've done all possible with the outcome resting in your hands.

For the last time, a quick reminder that Aaron and I wish to see our coins transferring into community collections and will work with individuals to achieve this outcome. Friday brought several inquiries for extended payment terms as collectors are finalizing their selections and funding strategies. Bidding on five figure coins takes contemplation and a sound resourcing strategy to pursue these acquisitions. I will be hanging out in the office the entire day for those last minute auction lot reviews and extended payment term discussion. If wishing to trade gold on a bullion basis to fund acquisitions, I am all ears as everyone recognizes that I am a gold bug and will hold physical gold on a long term basis.

Lastly, the Session 2 Auction Sale has a hard close at 9:00 PM. All lots will close simultaneously so please prepare and execute your bids accordingly.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Please make sure to return on Sunday morning for an auction summary as the primary Daily Blog topic of the day. This edition will be composed with a strong sense of completion though there will still much to do on a wrap up basis.

Just a quick note that five Liberty Seated dimes from my reference collection where posted to the 30 Day Price List on Friday with the 1875 F-105 Repunched Date already on hold.

A busy day awaits me as today office project is loading the Tom Coulombe Liberty Seated Dime Collection into the COIN system as a first step for the forthcoming August 2025 auction. Again, I will be working in the office and more than pleased to entertain your last minute Session 3 auction inquiries.

Thank you again for the years of numismatic support and the ongoing Daily Blog readership.

Be well!

May 16, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Bidding Returns

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Friday morning. We certainly appreciate the ongoing readership and GFRC orders. Thank you for the visit.

Friday was a good day on many fronts though one diagnosis will be expensive.

Our Amtrol hot water make continued its erratic behaviors necessitating a technical support visit from Atlantic Heating in Portland. John, the service manager, sent out his best technician given the erratic readouts on the temperature controller. It took the technician several minutes to diagnose the problem. The Amtrol internal insulating shell had been breached with hot water now contacting the outer steel casing. Simply placing a hand on the outside of the tank was enough to determine the issue for this nearly 30 year old tank. The next step is securing a quote for a replacement tank and a different brand than Amtrol with a stainless steel inner casing. The current tank must be drained and removed with little space to work with in our utility closet. In discussions with the technician, we also agreed to add a power cutoff switch at the tank for the winter months while in Florida. This will save fuel oil as there is no need to sustain hot water in the tank with an empty house.

The second positive is that I treated myself to several hours on Johnny2 adding more drainage trenches to a particularly wet location on the back acreage northern trail. Working in that area with a 4500 lbs tractor was tricky as the ground was so water logged but the job was completed. Given the ruts made by Johnny2, that location was resurfaced with 1/2" stone. Maintaining the walking trails is paramount as our neighbors Rick and Sharon along with their nearby Valley Road friends are using the trail daily. In return for the privilege, they maintained the trail while we are away in Florida. It was great arriving back from Florida with the trails free from any branches and in tip-top condition other than settled water in wet locations.

Finally, bidding returned for the Session 3 Auction Sale with the statistics being notably improved this morning. Let's move forward with the headline topic.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Bidding Returns

The grand finale for the final session of the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated coinage sale is in sight with the countdown now underway. Come tomorrow evening at 8:00 PM, I will be hanging out in the office and watching the final hour of bidding through the 9:00 PM ET closing time. A life long numismatic journey has reached near closure with the unsold lots heading to the GFRC price lists and Collectors Corner. Our goal of seeing the Fortin and Heintz numismatic properties transferring to other active collections has been mostly met in a challenging economic environment.

Looking at the Session 3 Auction statistics, the tally for lots heading into new collections has increased to 34 which translates into a 44% sell through rate. We are still well away from the 60% goal but substantial progress with gap closing took place on Thursday. Hopefully today's bidding will bring us that much closure to the 60% mark.

As for the total value of those 34 bids, this morning's tally has climbed to $219,705, a respectable figure with much more room to expand. Currently, the tally is 31% of the initial reserves. The much higher lot tally indicates that lower reserved coins were the primary targets for those bidding on Thursday leaving rare dates and condition census lots still waiting to be selected for bidding.

Yesterday brought several more inquiries for extended payment terms as passionate collectors are assessing the Session 3 auction status and making their final decisions on which lots they will be chasing. Every inquiry is being met with support as I am most serious about granting extended payment terms along with taking gold in trade against these lots.

Let's review some super lots that are still quietly waiting for some much needed love...

For the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection, there are five very notable San Francisco lots that should be heading into advanced collections. Each one was a personal thrilled when purchased in the day. We open the display with a truly important 1856-S dime that would be the pride and joy of nearly any collection. The 1856-S date is elusive problem free in all circulated grades with few Mint State survivors extant. The reserve price is reasonable and hopefully someone will have the appropriate numismatic economics to bring this lot home.

1856-S F-101 PCGS MS63+ CAC 10C - $17,500

Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. This condition census lot exhibits pale gold iridescence overlaying satiny mint luster. Sharp struck and well preserved warranting a GFRC-Gem quality rating. The initial year of Seated dime production at the San Francisco Mint with only 70,000 struck. An issue that was not preserved given the demand for small change on the western frontier. Problem free survivors in circulated grades are a challenge for present day collectors let alone a prized example certified as Choice Mint State. Only one of two certified by PCGS at grade and beware of double counting between the MS63/MS63+ populations. CAC has approved 17 coins in total, three pieces in MS63, and two examples finer. The CAC price guide suggests $17,300 as fair value. Stack's Bowers, March 2014 Baltimore Sale, Lot #4014. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.6 (2013-2014) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4613.

Like the 1856-S dime date, the 1861-S issue is the most challenging of all the Civil War dates struck at the San Francisco mint. This date was struck with the Type 1 Obverse hub that features weak devices details and shallow relief. The Fortin specimen offers a view into the Longacre-Paquet design along with its rich frosted luster. To make things more exciting, I've just lowered the reserve from $17,500 to $15,000 towards encourage someone to step forward on a must have date for a Civil War era centric collection.

1861-S F-101 PCGS MS62 CAC 10C - $15,000

Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. The relatively low mintage of 172,500 pieces doesn't even begin to explain the scarcity of this challenging Civil War era S-mint, particularly in XF or better condition. PCGS has certified eight in Mint State while CAC has approved seven within a total census of 23. As a first year of design, the notoriety allowed for a few to be preserved by those curious within the western frontier. Brilliant satiny surfaces are intense, coupled with vibrant cartwheels under a bright light leading to a tremendous viewing experience. A hammered strike provides insights into the short lived Type 1 Obverse design hub. Conservatively graded with no upgrade attempts since acquisition. The CAC price guide lists $12,100 at grade with a jump to $21,600 at MS63. Heritage Auctions, January 2004 FUN Sale, Lot #5614. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.3 (2005) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4634.

What else can be said concerning the Finest Known 1869-S Liberty Seated dime? The reserve bid is my cost basis.

1869-S F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $26,000

Finest Known, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. Honors for the third "finest known" in the Fortin Collection goes to the 1869-S issue, a scarce date in Mint State. This lone MS67 certified example suddenly appeared within a Great Collections auction during 2021 with no prior auction appearances. The preservation is flawless with deeply frosted luster and swirling cartwheels. Obverse motifs are fully impressed while the reverse shows typical weakness at the upper left wheat grains. A phenomenal specimen with charm that will last a collecting lifetime. F-102 die pairing with a Small Weak S. Utilized as the plate coin within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference. The CAC price guide indicates $26,400 as market value while PCGS quotes $30,000. Acquired April 2021 via Great Collections auction. Housed in PCGS Gen 3.1 (1993-1998) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4650.

We move forward with this display to the second Finest Known 1871-S dime that has the Tom Bender pedigree. The eye appeal is stunning along with being the F-101 repunched date suitable for entry into a Top 100 Variety set. The 1871-S date is notorious for poor reverse strikes. Honestly, this lot is unimprovable and can be added to a collection with extended payment terms. All I ask for is 40% as a down payment.

1871-S F-101 PCGS MS65+ CAC 10C - $16,500

Second Finest Known, Repunched Date, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection, Ex. Bender. This 1871-S repunched date example is close to unimprovable given its status as the second finest known at PCGS and CAC. Rich granular frosted luster is brilliant with faint gold at the obverse rims. The reverse radiance is equally captivating with beautiful blue and mauve patina and swirling cartwheels. The design elements are sharply struck,

including Liberty's head, the denomination, and the grains in the corn and wheat stalks, areas that are often weak. A few minute chatter marks on the reverse above ONE account for the grade while the obverse is unquestionably pristine. F-101 with bold repunching above the 18 digits and a Small Weak S mintmark. The PCGS price guide plate coin. CAC reports two at the MS65 grade with a single finer. The CAC guide lists $15,800 as fair value without a value for the (+) grade. Acquired via private treaty. Ex. Heritage Auctions, February 2023 Long Beach Signature Sale Lot# 3656 (Tom Bender), Jason Carter (5/2009), and Eugene Gardner Part II (Heritage 10/2014), Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2024) holder with CAC approval. The label documents the Bender Collection pedigree. PCGS #4655.

Yes, this 1885-S dime lot is the second Finest Known. Every astute Liberty Seated coinage collector is well aware of how challenging the 1885-S date is in problem free circulated grade let along a full gem condition validated by CAC approval. This lot would be the centerpiece of any collection being assembled. To make this lot that more enticing, I've just lowered the reserve price a tad and now consistent with the CAC Price Guide. There is this example at MS65 and a lone MS66 with a $65,000 price guide number.

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $36,000

Second Finest, Gem Original, Fresh CAC Approval, Gerry Fortin Collection. A remarkable condition rarity 1885 San Francisco strike and one of the highlights of the Fortin Collection. That year's mintage was anemic at 43,690 pieces with nearly all entering circulation. This date is undoubtedly the rarest Mint State date from 1873 through the design's termination in 1891. Even choice original circulation strikes are prized by collectors given the date's scarcity. This gem example exhibits shimmering frosted luster and swirling cartwheels with a stunning visual presentation. A transparent copper-gold patina is uniform on both sides while the strike is deeply impressed and meticulously detailed with partial wire rims. Immaculate surfaces provide undisturbed eye appeal. F-101, a single pair with usage as the plate coin within the Fortin Liberty Seated dime online reference. The CAC census indicate a sole example at MS65 (this lot) and a single finer. December 2021 via private treaty. Fresh cross into a PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval.

During Saturday's Blog edition, I will be providing the same review for what I believe are the special Newtown lots in the Session 3 Auction Sale.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The GFRC shipping department has the day off today as Diane is heading to Lewiston for a Theriault family sibling breakfast. Since all five siblings live in the Lewiston-Auburn area, making it possible for the family to stay closely net. On a different note, many of you have asked for the correct pronunciation of Diane's maiden name that is seen on our outgoing shipments. Theriault is a French name and is correctly pronounced as "Terrio" in English.

Today bring an office day as I will be loading some low priced web-book plate coins to the price list along with responding to a fair number of overnight orders. If needing special terms for the Session 3 Auction Sale, I am just a phone call away.

Thank you again for today's visit. Please make sure to be well!

May 15, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - A Quiet 24 Hours

Cool 1873 Arrows F-125 Die Variety Web-Book Addition

and

The Tenafly Collection Joins August/October 2025 Auction Sales

Greetings on a Thursday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for returning to these ramblings.

I've got to say it...

Being back in the Maine office is just heaven given the ability to reflect and compose while enjoying the front landscape view via the large office window. The green landscape brings an enticing contrast with the blue sky backdrop. Though being zoned as rural, the morning commuter traffic is obvious as Valley Rd has become an east-west highway of sorts between the Sebago Lakes region and Lewiston-Auburn.

Yesterday afternoon brought the arrival of the last pieces of the Echo Pro Attachment series from Home Depot. It took a few minutes to fix an improperly configured paddle broom attachment before connecting to the gas-powered head unit. Then the paddle broom came to life and proved its capabilities during the removal of winter road sand at the top of the homestead driveway. This broom is a beast and best for cleaning up large amounts of sand. I would still recommend an old fashion broom for fine cleaning since the paddle broom throws sand in all directions.

As for announcing the sale of the 1993 Mazda Miata, images will be forthcoming after the car is washed and polished for the final time. Both the Oregon Beaver and Sooner personalities could not resist inserting numismatic grading into the sale equation. Since the "Beaver" owns a 1994 Miata with 40,000 miles, he judges his car as AU53 while mine must be EF45. Blake Gibb initial proposed AU53 for my car which was too generous as I countered with AU50. The Beaver is probably correct with his EF45 grade, though the car is a near-gem at that grade.

Let's move forward with today's heading topics...

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - A Quiet 24 Hours

"Quiet" best describes The Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale on Wednesday with no need to update the statistics. There was a lone bid on Aaron's 1873-CC No Arrows half.

More importantly, I received two inquiries on extended payment terms which received favorable response. At this point, the goal is placing these auction lots into advanced collections with Gerry and Aaron willing to work with fellow collectors towards that end goal.

Many wonderful lots are still without bids. Here are two Liberty Seated dime highlights that deserve serious consideration though not being previously discussed.

The 1837 F-104 Small Date dime has been in my collection for decades and was upgraded during the 2022 Newtown Liberty Seated Dime Collection Sale held by GFRC. After the upgrade, I studied this coin and just could not bring myself to part with the duplicate. This is a true gem with old time eye appeal and superb luster that would be ideal as a type coin. Though held back during 2022, it is now on the auction block. During multiple auction lot viewing sessions, prior to this auction sale, this piece always generated favorable comments. The 1891-O F-113 dime is a lot of coin for the reserve price. Sure, it is a common date but the gem nature of this piece ranks with those one grade higher. Being tied for CAC finest speaks volumes for its importance.

1837 F-104 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $12,500

1891-O F-113 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $2750

Cool 1873 Arrows F-125 Die Variety Web-Book Addition

Yesterday also brought a rare occasion where a new die variety was added to the Liberty Seated Dime die variety online reference. During the middle of 2024, an individual approached me with a high grade 1873 With Arrows dime that was unlisted in the web-book. The diagnostics were substantial and warranted inclusion. Yes, it took months before I found the time, or remembered that this piece was in the queue. Following is the new 1873 Arrows F-125 listing for your information.

1873

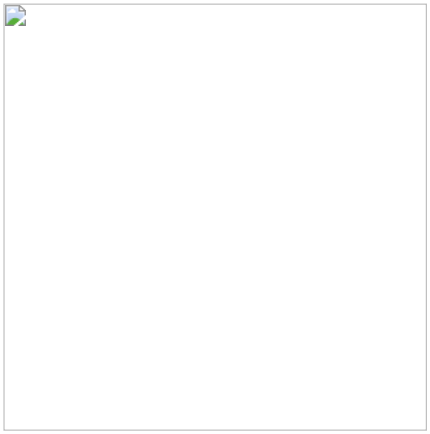
With Arrows

Variety 125

Obverse 15: High Level Date, Partial S, Die Defects On Liberty, Left Arrow DR 0C

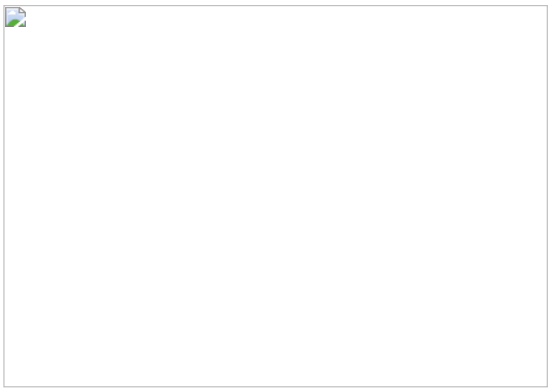
Reverse X: Spaghetti Type Defect at Upper Rim, Reverse Rotated Right 15 Degrees

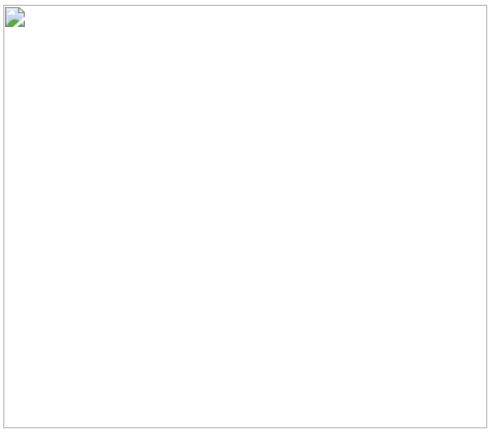
Obverse 15

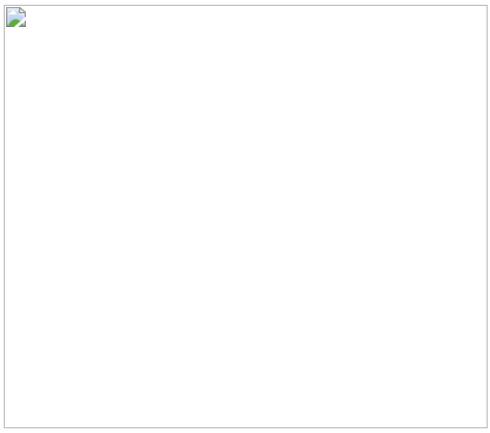


Reverse N

Obverse Diagnostic Point(s)







Comments: During mid-2024, Michael Dustin reported the discovery of an incremental die pairing with bold die markers. He was able to identify Obverse 15 being paired with a new reverse die which is labeled as Reverse X. Liberty's neck area exhibits a vertical irregular die line type defect along with two small die pits on the left facing leg immediately above right of the shield.

Reverse X can be easily identified by a long spaghetti type die line at the top of the reverse. Please note that the reverse die is rotated right by 15 degrees which is captured in the above illustration.

Plate Coin: Courtesy of the Michael Dustin Collection, PCGS MS64

The Tenafly Collection Joins August/October 2025 Auction Sales

GFRC is thoroughly pleased to announce that the Tenafly Collection has also decided to divest his numismatic holdings and will be joining the GFRC Online Auctions August 2025 event.

Some history is in order. The Tenafly Collection is none other than Tom Hubschman who grew up in Tenafly, New Jersey. Tom played in minor league baseball as a pitcher and also had a serious love for numismatics. Tom became a GFRC client during late 2016 after attending a Liberty Seated class at that year's ANA Summer Seminar. I was one of the instructor during that year's class. Afterwards, Tom became an active client with a keen focus on CAC approved Liberty Seated dimes, quarters, and $5 U.S. gold.

As a long term consignor, the Tenafly Collection sales are recorded at the Gallery link with an invitation to review the coins that Tom has sold via GFRC. During early 2025, Tom contacted me and indicated that the time had come to liquidate his holding, again via GFRC. We did the shipment preparations behind the scenes as Tom's collection would be added to the Massachusetts Collection Sale and therefore the need to probably go with two auction sessions. Now that the Tom Coulombe Liberty Seated dime collection is in the office, the next step was to facilitate the shipping of Tom Hubschman's collection.

The Tenafly Collection has two components namely Liberty Seated dimes along with a 21 piece lot of $5 and $10 Liberty gold. Tom's Liberty Seated Dime collection will nicely enhance the Tom Coulombe's offerings as the two collections are complementary. Trust me, the forthcoming August, and probably October sales will be a watershed for those collectors that wish to assemble a premium Liberty Seated dime collection on a restricted numismatic budget as the set is missing the Big Four Carson City dates and other key dates. Some of the sub $300 Tenafly dimes will move directly to the 30 Day Price List.

Soliciting Other Consignments for August/October 2025 Auction Sale

Now that the two primary consignors for the GFRC Online Auctions 2025 auction sales has been announced, we are also soliciting other consignments for the two auction sessions. If wishing to sell your coins via GFRC, it might behoove you to jump on this important occasion.

Wrapping Up The Blog

This has been a "beefy" edition and I hope that you've enjoyed the content.

BTW, the fact that I've added a new listing to the web-book should not be seen as open season for incremental web-book updates. It took me nearly 9 months to get this update done among everything else that I have going on in a life. I took on this listing due to the easily recognized diagnostics that make the 1873 F-125 variety significant and worthy of listing. My appetite for listing common dates with new date positions is nil!

Today being morning shipping followed by time outdoors on the tractor patching up some moderating washout areas on the back acreage trails.

Again, thank you for today's visit. Be well!

May 14, 2025

Near Gem 1993 Miata MX-5 is For Sale

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Collectors Rendering Decisions

An Initial Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection Preview

and

Second Major August 2025 Auction Announcement on Thursday

Greetings on another beauty southern Maine spring morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. We are so pleased with the fact that you've stopped by to take in the latest GFRC ramblings.

Today brings another day in a life with much taking place. Yesterday brought a tops down 1993 Miata ride to the infamous Gerry Fortin and Tom Coulombe meeting spot, the New Hampshire Wine and Liquor Outlet right over the Maine state line. Tom's 30 year collecting journey was transferred in a lock Pelican case with highlights being shown shortly. I'm certain that it was an emotional moment for Tom as it was for me when the decision was made to sell a life long pursuit.

Rest assured Tom, your collection is in great hands....

On a separate note, my near-gem 1993 Miata is now for sale as we need the garage space for the forthcoming 718 Boxster GTS 4.0. Why not offer the car to Blog readers in the New England area first before placing on our hilltop with a For Sale sign? The Miata has just turned 90,000 miles with brand new tires and has been garaged since being purchased. In other words, the Miata has never seen any winter road salt and runs perfectly. The asking price will be $9950, a number that is less than many of the coins being offered in the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale. Yes, "fun"can be subjective, right?

Let move on to today's headline topics.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Collectors Rendering Decisions

The Session 3 Auction Sale continues to make incremental progress as each day brings collectors rendering purchase decisions. I'm most pleased to see a higher sales volume and dollar tallies each morning.

This morning's tally indicates that 24 lots are moving into other advanced collections which takes us to a 31% sell through rate, now half of our 60% goal. Total bids have reached the $180,000 level which is 25% of the initial reserves. Yes, there is still much ground to be covered between now and Saturday's 9:00 ET closing time. I'm positive that the auction statistics will continue to improve in the coming days.

Of note is the fact that the Eliasberg 1865-S dime secured a bid yesterday. This piece has been in my collection since January 1997 and is amazing given a fully struck F-101 survivor. I hope that the winning bidder will enjoy this dime as much as I have.

An Initial Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection Preview

Today's Blog will be brief as Diane and wish to secure a three lap walk on the back acreage trails before she heads out to a morning appointment. Rather than ramble about Tom Coulombe's Liberty Seated Dime Collection with a host of details, let's take desktop images of the forthcoming 1837 through 1856 offerings to whet everyone's appetite. There are a host of super dimes at the PCGS certified grades for consideration. Those collectors with inquisitive minds can also visit Tom's set on the Open Set Registry by clicking here. As usual, clicking on the below images will provide access to higher resolution version.

1837 10C PCGS MS63 No Stars, Large Date
1837 10C PCGS AU58 No Stars, Small Date
1838-O 10C PCGS AU58 No Stars
1838 10C PCGS AU58 No Drapery, Small Stars
1838 10C PCGS AU50 Partial Drapery
1839 10C PCGS MS63 No Drapery
1839-O 10C PCGS MS61 No Drapery
1840 10C PCGS MS64 No Drapery
1840-O 10C PCGS AU58 No Drapery
1840 10C PCGS XF45 Drapery
1841 10C PCGS MS62
1841-O 10C PCGS MS67
1842 10C PCGS MS65+
1842-O 10C PCGS AU55
1843 10C PCGS MS64
1843-O 10C PCGS XF45
1844 10C PCGS XF40
D.L. HANSEN COLLECTION
1845 10C PCGS MS64
1845-O 10C PCGS XF45
1846 10C PCGS VF25

1847 10C PCGS MS62
1848 10C PCGS MS64
1849 10C PCGS MS63 Bender Collection
1849-O 10C PCGS AU53
1850 10C PCGS MS64+
1850-O 10C PCGS AU53
1851 10C PCGS MS63
1851-O 10C PCGS AU55
1852 10C PCGS MS62
1852-O 10C PCGS AU58
1853 10C PCGS AU55 No Arrows
1853 10C PCGS MS65 Arrows
1853-O 10C PCGS AU58 Arrows
1854 10C PCGS MS64 Arrows
1854-O 10C PCGS MS63 Arrows
1855 10C PCGS MS63 Arrows
1856 10C PCGS AU58 Large Date
1856 10C PCGS MS66 Small Date
1856-O 10C PCGS MS64
1856-S 10C PCGS XF45

Second Major August 2025 Auction Announcement on Thursday

I hope that everyone checks back tomorrow morning as GFRC Online Auctions will be making a serious announcement concerning a second major collection for the forthcoming August 2025 event. The stage is now set as a long time GFRC client and friend has made the decision to divest his holdings. More on the topic in 24 hours. Just a hint... The entire collection is 100% CAC approved and ships to the GFRC office in the next few days.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings and in and out of the office day as Diane has a morning appointment while I have an another afternoon dentist visit, just some minor restoration work for what I recently learned is tooth "notching". Wear and tear on the body takes different shapes as we age.

Shipping will resume on Thursday morning. Thank you again for the ongoing visits.

Be well!

May 13, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - And the Beat Goes On

and

Preparations for the GFRC Online Auctions August 2025 Sale

Greetings on an especially pleasant spring Maine morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. After blogging for eleven years plus, saying thank you to the readership becomes that much more important.

Homestead spring clean-up is moving along well with today bringing the delivery of the final tranche of Echo Pro Attachment Series including the gas powered head unit. By tomorrow, the on site Echo system will include a string trimmer, a rubber paddle broom, and a small brush cutting saw. Though the market is driving towards electrification, I'm still in a time warp and investing in gas powered outdoor tooling due to the property size and its need for rugged equipment.

As with any spring in Maine, the chipmunks are back which means that hunting season will soon be underway with the Gamo air rifle and my father's 0.22 long barrel pistol and shot shells. Some things never change.

Let's open today's Blog content with a piece from Seth Godin that is sound advice for fellow business owners. The key point is that increasing the yield of whatever you are managing is wiser than a constant expansion mindset. As usual, Godin has a way of making a point.

Seth Godin Blogpost - Activation is not a secret

…but it's often overlooked.

A farmer might yearn for twice as much land. But it's far more efficient to double the yield on the land he already has.

Marketers often hustle to get the word out. To reach more people. And yet, activating the fans you already have–the ones who trust you, who get the joke, who want to go where you're going–is far more reliable.

If you want to win an election, don't waste a lot of time persuading people who have chosen to oppose you and your work. Instead, simply create the conditions for those who agree with you to choose to actually show up and vote. And, along the way, to bring their friends.

This is the overlooked secret of my book streak. I write books for my readers instead of trying to find readers for my books.

Marketers face a choice every day: hustle for new people or serve the ones who care. Activation is much more productive than persuasion.

Rich Hundertmark has posted a new GFRC-Lite blog on his website and invites Daily Blog readers for a visit...

GFRC-Lite blog; Fayetteville Show recap & new Classic Commemorative coin arrivals

Hi Gerry,

I've finally posted a belated Fayetteville show report blog. The event, although slow from a sales perspective, can work out long term with future show scheduling changes now in the works.
Lite has also received in a fantastic Early Commemorative series consignment. A few of the new arrivals are highlighted in the blog with others now posted and available for sale.

Lite is now looking forward to next month's Raleigh show, which is a flagship regional 4-day event for the Carolinas with over 150 tables.
I invite the blogamaniacs to visit the Lite site, the offering in the Classic Commemorative category is a good indication of the quality of type coins now in inventory.

Rich

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - And the Beat Goes On

I'm in a music kind of mood this morning with respect to the daily Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale update...

Bidding continued on Monday with the usual metrics showing improvements. As of today's Blog composition, 21 lots have now found a new home, of course, which home will be solidified come Saturday May 17 at 9:00 PM. We are now at a 27% sell through rate with the Newtown Liberty Seated halves leading the charge.

In terms of the overall sales tally, my trusty calculator indicates that $153,190 is now in the books which is 21% of the initial reverses. There is still a long way to go between now and Saturday evening but as I've always said, let's trust the process and hope for the best. Let's remember that rare and high grade Liberty Seated coinage is not fungible, rather each piece being unique in its own right. Those lots that do not sell will be posted to the 30 Day Price List followed by being offered at the upcoming Summer Baltimore and the ANA World's Fair of Money shows.

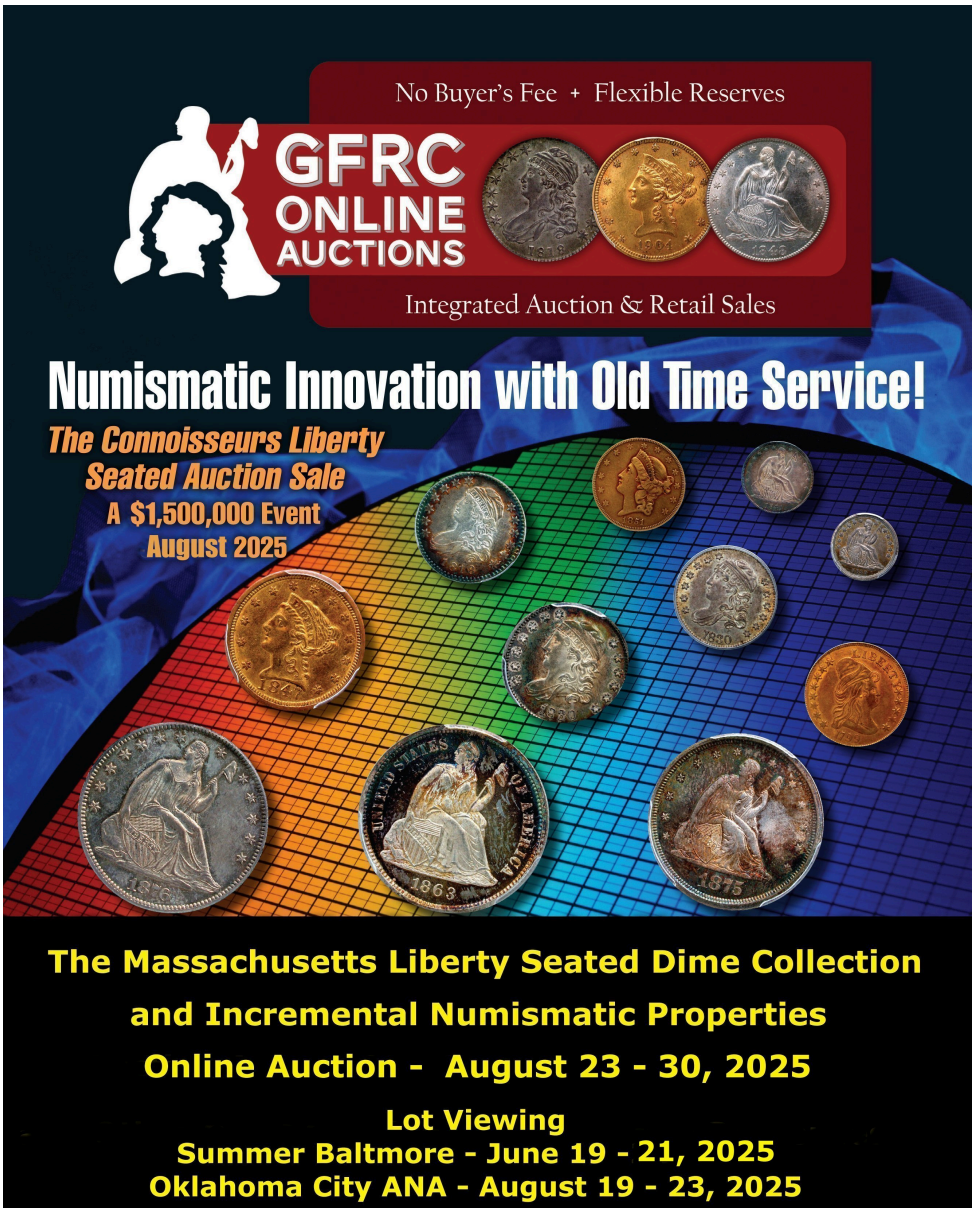
I would be remiss to not mention the flexibility for payment terms. GFRC offers extended payments terms along with accepting gold bullion or U.S. gold pieces in trade as another payment option.

Preparations for the GFRC Online Auctions August 2025 Sale

As one Connoisseur's Liberty Seated coinage auction comes to a conclusion, work on the next sale actually began last evening. Remaining cognizant of various small publication advertising deadlines are just one aspect of operating a specialty auction platform.

Last evening found me in the graphic design department as a post dinner time activity. Today brings a Miata driving trip to New Hampshire to retrieve the Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection that becomes the anchor offering for our next major auction event. Following is the new full page ad that will be placed in the CSNS Centinel, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club Gobrecht Journal, and the Barber Coin Collector's Society's journal.

So far, there is a second potential collection to be added to this event along with other potential consignments. Please be aware that I am soliciting incremental auction consignments effective today.


No Buyer's Fee + Flexible Reserves
GFRC
ONLINE
AUCTIONS
Integrated Auction & Retail Sales
Numismatic Innovation with Old Time Service!
The Connoisseurs Liberty
Seated Auction Sale
A $1,500,000 Event
August 2025
The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection
and Incremental Numismatic Properties
Online Auction - August 23 - 30, 2025
Lot Viewing
Summer Baltmore - June 19 - 21, 2025
Oklahoma City ANA - August 19 - 23, 2025

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a busy GFRC day with morning shipping followed by the New Hampshire road trip. Once back in the office by mid-afternoon, a consulting phone call appointment is on the books concerning a personal evaluation of Liberty Seated dime lots within the present auction event. Of course, this will be a fun event as I can't help but be excited to discuss the dimes in my personal collection.

I hope that today's Blog visit was enjoyable. Thank you so much for taking the time to check in on these ramblings.

Be well!

May 12, 2025

Spot Gold Drops on China Tariff Headlines

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Slow But Steady

Greetings on a Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

I awoke this morning to the usual routine of checking the spot gold pricing trend along with U.S. morning market futures given the Scott Bessent and Trump have announced progress during the U.S. and China trade discussions in Geneva. Mutual tariffs are being slashed as a first step towards productive discussions. As expected, U.S. equities are in rally mode on the headline news with the S&P 500 up nearly 3% at 6:30 AM. The CNN Business meter has shifted to "greed" being the driver of current equity action. The NASDAQ is up nearly 4.0% with Tesla up 22 points alone to $320. Even crude oil is rising on the news at $63 per barrel.

Of course, with a shift to a *risk on* trade now underway, monies will flow out of safe assets including gold and Treasuries. Spot gold is trending at $3220 and will probably drop even more today while silver is trying to hold the $32 level. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield has increased to 4.46% in sympathy with gold.

Wild market swings are opportunities. The key is controlling and managing one's fear and greed instincts during periods of volatility. Keeping an eye on the long game is paramount which includes the United States deficit spending. Money pouring back into equities will refuel personal IRAs but a 10 Treasury bond yield above 4.4% is trouble for U.S. debt refinancing. It is a balancing act for personal investors, especially those who are in their retirement years. Though I am not officially retired, since waiting until age 70, the structuring of our assets for balance during market volatility leads to a wealth account with minimal top line swings. At this point in life, there is no need to be swinging for home runs. Many baseball games are won with effective use of timely singles.

One final comment in warranted concerning silver. Silver has a dual personality but also a dual liability as we've seen play out recently. When equity markets dropped due to tariffs, silver was treated as an industrial metal. When precious metals drop, silver is viewed as a precious metal. It simply cannot win due to a split personality.

I'm sitting back and awaiting the details of the China-U. S. trade discussions as Xi is a fox like Trump. I don't see the CCP surrendering that easily under Xi's rule. Jumping into today's equity trade should be done with careful consideration for where the long game is headed. We have become conditioned to instantaneous gratification with our ubiquitous cellphones as an example.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Slow But Steady

Yes, there is a GFRC Online Auctions underway with slow but steady bidding. The Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sales is evolving slower that the prior two sessions. Sunday brought some light bidding as a few more lots found new homes. Hopefully, today's jump in equity prices will have collectors breathing a sigh of relief in terms of their personal finances and facilitating more numismatic acquisitions.

This morning's auction tally was quick...

We now have 15 of the 78 offered lots heading to new home with Newtown's Liberty Seated halves being in demand. The sell through rate is presently 19% with a substantial gap to our typical 60% level. Hopefully more bidding will appear during the coming days.

In terms of cumulative bids, that numbers has been tallied at $104,300 which is 15% of the overall reserves. More lower priced lots saw action on Sunday as compared to the initial bidding.

Indiana Collection Issues 10% Pricing Reduction

Over the weekend, Dr. Tim Cook sent along a price reduction notice which has been executed. If checking the 30 Day Price List, you will note Tim's coins being repriced and located at the top of the price list. He hopes that a few lots will find new homes in the near term towards financing incremental upgrades. Raising numismatic capital via selling duplicates is a key part of the collecting journey as I've stressed countless times here in the Blog.

Consignments are Being Solicited

The month of May is one of focus on the Maine homestead and preparing for the summer months. However, there is time to squeeze in a few consignments onto the price list. If considering the divestment of some numismatic assets prior to the summer coin show season, now might be a good time to tender that decision. Maine weather looks downright wet and cold starting on Thursday with rain and clouds in the forecast moving into Memorial Day weekend. High temperatures for the coming weekend are only forecasted at 57F with lows in the 48-50 degree range. With this type of weather, I'll be sitting in the office and working on the GFRC business for sure.

Wrapping Up The Blog

That is the extent of today's ramblings. Your ongoing visits and numismatic purchases are always appreciated as are the ongoing client relationships.

Thanks again and be well!

May 11, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale is Underway

Greetings on a bright sunny Sunday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Your ongoing patronage is most appreciated.

Finally, the rains have concluded here in southern Maine with a beautiful clear blue sky outside the office window. The homestead has a long lush green lawn that is still too wet to be cut today. The first lawn mowing of the season will take place on Monday once the ground has dried out a bit. Instead, a pile of oak branches from last summer's tree cutting needs an appointment with our trusty Husky chain saw. This out of the way space, by the stone construction path, is targeted for a 16 yard mulch load to be soon delivered by Dave Wilkinson.

Let's keep the preamble short this morning and focus on opening bidding for the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale is Underway

Preparations for the Connoisseur's Auction Sale began nearly a year ago, therefore this Session 3 event brings closure to a long numismatic business journey. As mentioned often, this sale also brings additional closure on a personal basis for the years taken to locate suitable candidates along with securing the associated financial resources. Both Aaron Heintz and I have placed out hearts into assembling the presently offered coins. Once the Session 3 Sale wraps on Saturday May 17, the numismatic trek is still not over as unsold coins must still find new homes. Patience is paramount if we are to locate the appropriate collections for placing the final pieces.

Bidding promptly appeared at 9:00 PM last evening with two nearly simultaneous bids on the Newtown 1873-CC No Arrows half. I am not surprised as the demand for No Arrows 1873-CC halves is ongoing when properly graded examples reach the GFRC price list. For the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection, the first piece to sell was the 1859-S dime, a very challenging date in AU considering the extreme rarity in Mint State.

Let's look at the initial bidding statistic against the Session 3 baseline...

There are 78 lots in this event with a total reserved value of $716,000 as a starting point. As of this morning 12 lots have already found new homes which is a 15% sell through rate, a decent start with the Newtown Collection leading the charge. Of course, Aaron's Carson City dates have seen immediate interest along with the challenging 1855-S PCGS AU58 CAC half dollar.

At this early auction stage, the bids total stands at an even $97,000 which is 13.5% of initial reserves. This is great to see as usually the lower priced lots see the initial bidding action with the five figure lots selling near the auction close.

My sincere thanks go out to the handful of bidders who jumped into the auction during the first hour of bidding. I'm certain that more individuals will appear today to stake out their targeted lots as there are a host of premium Liberty Seated dimes and halves to consider.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to ramble about at the moment, so let's wrap up at this point. Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

May 10, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Opens Today at 9:00 PM

and

Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Highlights

Greetings from a waterlogged southern Maine and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Saturday morning. We appreciate the ongoing readership.

The end of a multi-month auction sale process arrives this evening at 9:00 PM with bidding lasting one week. Yes, the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sales opens in a little over twelve hours with much anticipation by all involved. After a strong opening Session 1 auction (January 19 - 26) and a well subscribed Session 2 auction (March 22 - 29), the final auction session arrives this evening with much suspense. In yesterday's Blog edition, full coverage was provided for the Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection. Today brings the same for the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection but with a different twist since I am so personally interment with each dime.

The Session 3 Auction Sale will close next Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 PM. At that point, both Gerry Fortin and Aaron Heintz will have completed a full circle collecting journey that spans much of our lives. There will be a host of positive memories associated with our extended numismatic journeys along with looking forward to seeing "our" coins reappearing on the market for years to come. Though neither Aaron nor Gerry chose the pedigreed holder label route, the GFRC Gallery site and also the GFRC Sales Archive will continue to document these pedigrees items.

Session 3 Auction Sale Reminders

This list of reminders might appear to be repetitious to those that are avid Daily Blog readers but it is best to again review several key GFRC Online Auctions housekeeping items.

- GFRC Online Auctions are a bid centric system with no tie back to a bidder number. Each bid is unique to itself. This requires some discipline with noting your bids and not placing incremental bids on existing bids which will trigger the earlier bid. Not to worry if there is a desire to increase a maximum bid. Simply call or email Gerry and I will delete the early bid enabling the placement of a higher bid.

- All GFRC Online Auction events have a hard close for ALL lots at 9:00 PM. The final hour sees increased bidding activity with the final five minutes becoming quite intense. If sniping is your bidding approach, be aware of the risk of opening a bidding screen too early as the existing lot bid is that at the time the screen in opened and not at the time of placement.

- For the Connoisseur's Auction Sales, GFRC has been authorized to offer extended payment terms up to one year after the auction close. Gerry and Aaron desire that collectors secure our cherished coins, therefore, we will extend payment terms to fit your numismatic budgets. It is recognized that some collectors may already find themselves with payment terms from the Session 1 and Session 2 sales. There are only a few cases where bidders are actually using a full twelve months to pay down their auction balances. If requiring special terms to enable

Session 3 Auction Sale lots, don't be bashful. Simple email or call Gerry for a discussion of your needs. All conversations are strictly confidential as by now, everyone recognizes that GFRC operates a thoroughly professional numismatic business.

Good luck to everyone who jumps into the Session 3 auction ring this evening. We will be back on Sunday morning with initial commentary on how the opening bidding faired.

Let's move forward with highlights from the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection as there are a host of stellar lots to consider.

Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Highlights

As with most mornings when the Daily Blog is composed, I'm sitting in the office attempting to decide on a presentation approach as there are a plethora of wonderful Seated dimes being offered in this final auction sale. Let's start with those lots that are CAC finest known, tied for finest known, and second finest known.

My 1849-O Large O dime is an amazing example that is tied for finest known. Locating gem 1849-O Mint State dimes could be a multi-decade pursuit for New Orleans centric collectors, thus the importance of gaining access to this exceptional lot.

1849-O F-101a PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $19,000

CAC Tied Finest, Large O, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. The challenge in locating gem Mint State New Orleans dimes continues with the 1849 date. Of the 300,000 struck, few Mint State survivors are known. The PCGS population stands at eleven certified with four CAC approved. The struggle is further exacerbated by poor mint workmanship, including weak strikes coupled with rusted and lapped dies. Based on research background, this example was acquired during May 2006 via Legend Numismatics as one of the finest survivors to arrive at the market in modern times. The preservation is exceptional with steely-frosted luster that is consistent on both sides. Natural rose, aquamarine, and blues shades are a testament to the strict originality. F-101 with a Large O mintmark and a die pairing notorious for partial strikes. Though Liberty's head is not fully struck, this example is likely condition census for strike robustness. Tied for finest at CAC with a price guide value listed at $17,300. Housed in an as acquired PCGS Gen 4.4 (2005-2011) holder with 2014 CAC approval. PCGS #4592.

The Fortin 1850-O dime is the finest known Small O with magnificent ring toning and a hammered strike. Again, this lot is a prize for those attempting to build the most advanced New Orleans Seated collections.

1850-O F-103 NGC MS67 Star 10C - $27,500

Tied Finest Known, Exceptional Gem, Gerry Fortin Collection. The Fortin Collection presents the finest 1850 Small O dime which shares the title with a PCGS certified Large O example. Granular mint frost dominates the obverse while the reverse mint bloom is in the steely realm. Once again, a hammered strike was a purchase imperative. All devices are intricately detailed with sharp hair curls and facial characteristics. The overall eye appeal is exceptional, thus being recognized with an NGC Star designation. Photographing this dime proved to be challenging due to the intense center luster that is framed by darker peripheral copper-gold. F-103, the lone Small O die pair of that year. Greer indicates that the Small O is the scarcest of the three mintmark sizes followed by the Medium O, and finally the Large O. Acquired August 2004 via Carter Numismatics as a present to me upon releasing The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference at that summer ANA event, A well hidden break in the right obverse field luster precluded CAC approval. Housed in NGC Gen 14 (2003-2004) holder. PCGS #4594.

Little needs to be said for the finest known 1869-S dime extent. This is a flawlessly preserved example with deeply frosted luster. Wow!

1869-S F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $26,000

Finest Known, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. Honors for the third "finest known" in the Fortin Collection goes to the 1869-S issue, a scarce date in Mint State. This lone MS67 certified example suddenly appeared within a Great Collections auction during 2021 with no prior auction appearances. The preservation is flawless with deeply frosted luster and swirling cartwheels. Obverse motifs are fully impressed while the reverse shows typical weakness at the upper left wheat grains. A phenomenal specimen with charm that will last a collecting lifetime. F-102 die pairing with a Small Weak S. Utilized as the plate coin within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference. The CAC price guide indicates $26,400 as market value while PCGS quotes $30,000. Acquired April 2021 via Great Collections auction. Housed in PCGS Gen 3.1 (1993-1998) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4650.

In terms of stellar eye appeal, this 1871-S F-101 repunched date dime is unimprovable. Formerly from the Tom Bender Collection and gladly added to my personal collection. Who will be the next pedigreed owner?

1871-S F-101 PCGS MS65+ CAC 10C - $16,500

Second Finest Known, Repunched Date, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection, Ex. Bender. This 1871-S repunched date example is close to unimprovable given its status as the second finest known at PCGS and CAC. Rich granular frosted luster is brilliant with faint gold at the obverse rims. The reverse radiance is equally captivating with beautiful blue and mauve patina and swirling cartwheels. The design elements are sharply struck, including Liberty's head, the denomination, and the grains in the corn and wheat stalks, areas that are often weak. A few minute chatter marks on the reverse above ONE account for the grade while the obverse is unquestionably pristine. F-101 with bold repunching above the 18 digits and a Small Weak S mintmark. The PCGS price guide plate coin. CAC reports two at the MS65 grade with a single finer. The CAC guide lists $15,800 as fair value without a value for the (+) grade. Acquired via private treaty. Ex. Heritage Auctions, February 2023 Long Beach Signature Sale Lot# 3656 (Tom Bender), Jason Carter (5/2009), and Eugene Gardner Part II (Heritage 10/2014), Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2024) holder with CAC approval. The label documents the Bender Collection pedigree. PCGS #4655.

An extraordinary gem 1882 dime that will provide the winning bidder a lifetime of viewing enjoyment. Tied for finest known at a fair opening bid. I suspect there will be keen attention on this lot with a few strong bids.

1882 F-104 PCGS MS67+ CAC 10C - $3750

Tied Finest Known, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection. A marvelously superb gem that is tied for finest known at PCGS. A razor sharp strike and enchanting frosted radiance are quite compelling and the basis for inclusion in the Fortin Collection. Blended cobalt blue and rose-gold peripheral toning floats on pristine surfaces. In-hand viewing is recommended for enjoying the dramatic cartwheels and overall presentation. A lot that is equally well suited as a top quality type coin or inclusion into date and mintmark set as is the case here. F-104 with broken top 2 digit and die cracks in the left reverse wreath. With a mintage of 3.9 million, the current CAC approved tally of 93 examples is not surprising. The CAC price guides suggest $3,000 as fair value while PCGS lists the MS67+ level at $5250. Acquired October 2021 via private treaty. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2024) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4690.

Potentially the most important and historically significant Liberty Seated Dime in the Session 3 Auction Sale, this 1885-S dime is in a remarkable preservation state with transparent copper-gold patination and pristine surfaces. I'm most interested in knowing who will be the next curator of this exceptional gem.

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $39,500

Second Finest, Gem Original, Fresh CAC Approval, Gerry Fortin Collection. A remarkable condition rarity 1885 San Francisco strike and one of the highlights of the Fortin Collection. That year's mintage was anemic at 43,690 pieces with nearly all entering circulation. This date is undoubtedly the rarest Mint State date from 1873 through the design's termination in 1891. Even choice original circulation strikes are prized by collectors given the date's scarcity. This gem example exhibits shimmering frosted luster and swirling cartwheels with a stunning visual presentation. A transparent copper-gold patina is uniform on both sides while the strike is deeply impressed and meticulously detailed with partial wire rims. Immaculate surfaces provide undisturbed eye appeal. F-101, a single pair with usage as the plate coin within the Fortin Liberty Seated dime online reference. The CAC census indicate a sole example at MS65 (this lot) and a single finer. December 2021 via private treaty. Fresh cross into a PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval.

This 1886-S F-101 lot might just be the sleeper in the Session 3 auction event with its tied for CAC finest status. This "luster bomb" is accurately illustrated by GFRC photography.

1886-S F-101 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $8750

Exceptional Gem, Tied CAC Finest, Gerry Fortin Collection, Ex. Gardner. A close to perfection gem with aesthetic appeal with Gardner pedigree. Soft golden-brown peripheral toning otherwise the surfaces are ever so lightly toned. Once again, the term "luster bomb" arrives to characterize the intense radiance and spinning cartwheel with angled lighting. The design elements are sharply defined with each side being impeccably preserved. In-hand auction lot viewing is strongly recommended for cultivating an appropriate bid as potentially superior to the Eliasberg specimen. F-101 with the second 8 digit centered under the pendant. Acquired February 2022 via private treaty. Previously Heritage Auctions, October 2014 Eugene Gardner Collection II Sale, Lot #98282 where it realized $8,813 as PCGS serial number 4598339. The reholdering under a different PCGS number and CAC approval brings the current CAC census in question as three are listed at the MS67 level with none finer. The CAC price guide suggests $8,250 as fair value. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4697.

Sure, an 1888 Philly dime is no big deal right? Not this 1888 dime with out of this world eye appeal and Gold CAC approval. One of my absolute favorite dimes in the Fortin Collection. This lot will bring viewing joy for years to come.

1888 Unlisted PCGS MS66 Gold CAC 10C - $6850

Exceptional Gem, Potential Finest Known, Gerry Fortin Collection. Exceptional eye appeal with claims to finest known, this 1888 Philadelphia strike completes the listing of seven Gold CAC approved lots in the Fortin Collection. A simply amazing strike with sparkling luster overlaid with vivid blue-green and lemon-gold patination. The bright light presentation is extraordinary including swirling cartwheels. Purchased at the Heritage Auctions August 2007 Milwaukee ANA Sale, Lot #444 at MS67 money given the marvelous portrait with a CAC Gold bean validating that decision during late 2014. The CAC census lists two at the MS67 level with a fair price estimate of $7500. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.1 (2002-2004) holder with Gold CAC approval. PCGS #4700.

And finally, an honorable mention to one of my long term favorite dimes, the 1865-S Eliasberg specimen with a complete F-101 strike. Astute Liberty Seated dime collectors understand the rarity of this piece when located with a full head. Let's see what the winning bid will be for this lot come next Saturday...

1865-S F-101 PCGS MS66 Gold CAC 10C - $17,500

Rare Complete Strike, Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection, Ex. Eliasberg. Astute students of the Liberty Seated dime series should immediately note the differentiated strike offered by the Eliasberg 1865-S. Nearly all strikes from the F-101 die pairing will exhibit partial, and worse, missing heads. When acquired January 1997 via private treaty, this specimen exposed the beauty of a complete Liberty portrait coupled with a brilliant obverse with deeply basined die, polished to provide a prooflike surface. Partially mirrored reverse fields are also noted with frosted motifs while surfaces are unabraded. No auction records are available since the Bowers & Merena May 20-22, 1996, New York City Eliasberg Sale. Featured as the F-101 plate coin, with Small Weak S, within the Fortin Liberty Seated Dime online reference. Tied at the MS63 level within the CAC census with two finer. Housed in PCGS Gen 3.1 (1993-1998) holder with CAC approval. The label documents the Eliasberg pedigree. PCGS #4642.

Lastly, let's not forget the 1866 F-102b New England Museum Collection lot that was recently discussed in the Daily Blog. I continue to be in awe of this incredibly well preserved dime!

1866 F-102b PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $12,500

Gem Original, Gerry Fortin Collection, Ex. New England Museum Collection. The well recognized New England Museum specimen with splendid gunmetal blue and russet toning along with peripheral gold on both sides. Bright light exposure reveals sharp reflectance consistent with proof strikes. A fully executed strike is apparent on all the devices. F-102b with lightly clashed dies as a circulation strike with only 8,000 produced. Held in a New England museum for generations and first auctioned by Stack's & Bowers at the May 2013 ANA National Money Show Sale, Lot #207. An incredibly original and condition census example that warrants in-hand inspection prior to bidding for appreciating the reserve that is consistent with the 2013 record auction price. Six examples have been CAC approved at the MS66 grade with a single finer. The CAC price guide stands at $4,900 while PCGS quotes $6,250. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.6 (2013-2014) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4643.

Parting with these revered Liberty Seated dimes does bring about a fair amount of seller's remorse. This remorse is balanced by knowing that these coins will be enhancing other substantial collections that are presently under construction.

Again, good luck to all bidders as we launch the Session 3 Auction Sale. If there are any questions or special needs, please do reach out!

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings morning shipping followed by posting the last round of U.S. gold offerings to the 30 Day Price List. At this point, the GFRC consignment queue is barren. If wishing to employ GFRC towards selling your coins, I'm all ears.

Our next major bourse event will be the Summer Baltimore show which is just two months away.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

May 9, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale

Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Highlights

Greetings on a Friday morning and welcome to another Daily Blog edition. Thank you for the returning visit.

Well, the Fortins new 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 has been officially landed at Sarasota Porsche as of yesterday. Josh, our Sales Ambassador, indicates that the Port Jacksonville shipment contained 18 cars! He promised that our vehicle will be unwrapped today with the first images being sent later in the day. Diane and I are both excited at this point in time to see the new car in the flesh.

Today's edition is wholly focused on the forthcoming Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale with bidding opening tomorrow evening at 9:00 PM. This final sales event concludes the release of both the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection and the Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection. In today's edition, we will visit highlights from the Newtown Collection as this auction session allows access to Aaron's Carson City dates and the low mintage 1879 through 1890 issues solely from the Philadelphia Mint. Therefore let's move forward with this presentation.

Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Highlights

We open today's Newtown Collection highlights with the Carson City Mint lots. Outside of the Civil War period dates, collectors show a strong affinity to those issues with the "CC" mintmark.

The Carson City Mint was established in 1863 to process silver from the Comstock Lode, one of the largest silver strikes in U.S. history. However, construction was delayed, and the mint did not begin operations until 1870. It produced gold and silver coins marked with the distinctive "CC" mint mark. The mint operated intermittently, shutting down in 1885 due to political reasons, reopening in 1889, and finally ceasing coin production in 1893. In 1899, its formal mint status was withdrawn, and it functioned as an assay office until 1933. Today, the historic building houses the Nevada State Museum, where visitors can see Coin Press No. 1, which is still used to strike commemorative medallions.

Its impact on numismatics, frontier commerce, and American history makes it a fascinating piece of the nation's past. One of the most influential figures behind the Carson City Mint was Abraham Curry, often called the "Father of Carson City." He played a key role in establishing the mint, recognizing the need for a local facility to process silver from the Comstock Lode. Curry also served as the first superintendent of the mint until 1870, when Henry Freeman Rice took over.

Another notable figure was Thomas Fitch, a congressman who helped push for the mint's construction despite political opposition. Their efforts ensured that the mint became a vital institution for Nevada's economy and the broader Western frontier. The mint boosted the local economy by minting coins locally and reducing the need to transport raw silver to the San Francisco and Philadelphia mints. As a result of local coinage, the mint provided hard currency for miners, merchants, and settlers thus fueling commerce in the developing western portion of the United States.

The Newtown lots provide the community with a special opportunity to acquire premium examples with extended payment terms. As mentioned many times, GFRC extended payment terms are available to those who contact me prior to the auction start on Saturday evening. Please don't be bashful about pursuing premium upgrades to your existing collections as Aaron Heintz and GFRC will work with you to facilitate those special purchases.

The Historical Carson City Dates!

1871-CC WB-3 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C - $15,000

1872-CC WB-5 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C - $11,000

1873-CC No Arrows WB-1 PCGS VF35 CAC 50C - $3750

1873-CC Arrows WB-8 PCGS MS63 50C - $17,000

1874-CC WB-3 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $37,500

1876-CC WB-2 PCGS MS62 CAC 50C - $4150

1877-CC WB-15 PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $11,200

1878-CC WB-1 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $22,500

The Philadelphia Mint's Liberty Seated half dollar mintage saw a significant decline between 1879 and 1890 due to several key factors including the U.S. economy transitioning towards gold and paper currency, therefore reducing the need for large silver coin production. In addition, the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 and the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890 influenced silver coinage priorities towards Morgan dollars. Between 1879 through 1887, less than 10,000 pieces were struck annually, with the 1881, 1882, and 1884 dates all seeing mintages of only 4,400 pieces. During 1889 and 1890, mintages increased to 12,000.

1879 - 1890 Philadelphia Low Mintage Period

1879 PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $6000

1880 PCGS MS65+ CAC 50C - $5350

1881 PCGS MS66+ CAC 50C - $12,500

1882 PCGS MS65 50C - $4500

1883 PCGS MS64 CAC 50C - $3300

1884 PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $7500

1885 PCGS MS66+ CAC 50C - $12,500

1886 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $2250

1887 PCGS MS67 CAC 50C - $25,000

1888 PCGS MS66+ CAC H10C - $8250

1889 PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $10,500

1890 PCGS MS65 CAC 50C - $4950

Wrapping Up The Blog

It is Friday with little shipping to move into the postal system, therefore we will be kitting incremental orders for shipment on Saturday morning. The extra time will allow me to head down to Raymond center to restock our gasoline and diesel cans along with recharging our grill propane tank. Call it an energy procurement morning!

On another note, planning of the next GFRC Online Auctions event is now underway. Yesterday brought a call with the Massachusetts Collection with a transfer date being set for next week to enable earlier cataloging of Tom Coulombe's substantial Liberty Seated Dime collection. Come next week, I will be announcing the date for the August and October auction sessions.

Let's wrap up the this Blog edition at this point and move forward with another busy day in a life.

Thank you again for staying current with GFRC events. Good luck to everyone who is planning to bid in next week's Session 3 Auction Sale.

Be well!

May 8, 2025

China's Overseas Gold Storage Facilities - Why?

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - The New England Museum 1866 Dime

Greetings once again from the GFRC Maine office on a sunny early morning. Thank you for the ongoing visits.

Well, two dentist and doctor appointments are out of the way which is a good thing. Remaining is today's trip to the dreaded Lewiston Dept of Motor Vehicles to renew a driver's license along with securing Real ID status. Older drivers must take an on site vision test which precludes securing a new license via online means. Fortunately, Central Maine Motor Sports is nearby the DMV location which will allow an initial look at the Polaris Kinetics XP UTV while in the area.

On the numismatic side of things, a substantial portion of the newly consigned U.S. gold lot has been posted to the 30 Day Price List with the 1902 $10 piece already on hold. There are some great offerings to consider at your leisure.

Let's move forward with today's headline topics.

China's Overseas Gold Storage Facilities - Why?

In the May 6 Blog, I made mention that China is establishing a physical gold facilities network outside of the mainland. Why would the Shanghai Gold Exchange take this step? One potential reason is the ability to establish a gold back Yuan as a settlement currency for the ASEAN member countries. This topic has been expanded upon by David Jensen in a May 5 Substack article which is being shared next. As always, this information is food for thought as the global trading order is under intense pressure via the Trump tariffs, in particular China.

China Rapidly Moves To Global Yuan-Gold Trade Settlement With New International Gold Facilities

On April 21, 2025 China released a joint statement by the People's Bank of China, the National Administration of Financial Regulation, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

That statement contained the following sentence:

"We will explore the internationalisation of physical delivery for specific products [traded] on the Shanghai Gold Exchange by establishing offshore delivery and storage facilities."

According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), the joint statement reflects that "China will allow certain products traded on the Shanghai Gold Exchange to be delivered overseas by establishing storage facilities in other countries – part of a broader effort to promote the Yuan and reduce reliance on the US dollar and US financial systems, according to top regulatory agencies."

The SCMP article further notes that total cross-border Chinese Yuan receipts and payments totaled the equivalent of US $4.1 trillion (T) in 2024.

> By establishing a global network of gold delivery and storage facilities where Chinese Yuan can be directly exchanged for physical gold, China is moving to make the Yuan more widely accepted globally as a medium of exchange and also allowing Chinese purchases of oil and food, currently paid with US Dollars (USD), to be made with Yuan.

So, We'll Take The Gold

The use of Yuan as a medium of exchange will likely not last a long time. As Alan Greenspan himself noted "Gold still represents the ultimate form of payment in the world. Fiat money in extremis is accepted by nobody. Gold is always accepted."

However, because of the scale of global trade, this use of gold to settle trade payment, even at the margins, can rapidly create enormous demand for physical gold.

This step-change in global physical gold demand would spell a final lights-out for the London gold and silver price fixing scheme using largely unbacked promissory notes that has been in operation since 1987 - physical gold delivery demand is kryptonite to a leveraged promissory note scheme as is used in London, the world's largest gold market.

To illustrate the impact of gold trade settlement on global demand, consider that total annual global trade currently amounts to 33T USD.

> If 1T USD of global trade is settled in gold, at the current gold price this equates to 303 million (M) oz. of added physical gold demand compared to 2024's global gold demand of 160 M oz.
>
> In that event, you can add zeros to the fiat price of gold.

International trade settlement with naked fiat currency will become very difficult in the future.

Best regards,

David Jensen

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - The New England Museum 1866 Dime

One of my absolute favorite dimes in the Gerry Fortin Collection is being auctioned via the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale. Yes, this is the dime that has been employed for the Session 3 banner at the top of this page. Following are large images for your viewing enjoyment.

1866 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - The New England Museum Specimen

During May 2013, Stack's Bower's sold lots from a New England Museum as part of its New Orleans ANA auction sale. One of the lots was an incredible 1866 dime graded PCGS MS66 with CAC approval. I had my eye on the coin, that was for certain. However, I had just returned from a six year employment period in mainland China and was taking steps to launch a numismatic retirement business. My bids on the coin were woefully inadequate as the piece climbed to a record $13,000 price. Here is the lot description from the 2013 catalog.

1866 Liberty Seated Dime. Fortin-102b. Rarity-6. MS-66 (PCGS). CAC. Rare in all grades with a mintage of a mere 8,000 pieces for circulation, the 1866 dime is very difficult to find in Gem grades. The attractive surfaces are graced by splendid gunmetal-blue and russet toning on both sides. Held in a museum collection for generations, this coin was recently consigned to our auction and sent to PCGS, where it was graded as one of the finest seen by that service. A sharp and full strike is apparent on all the devices and both dies show light clashing evidence in the fields. An incredible quality coin.

Time went by with an intense focus on building up the GFRC business and pretty much forgetting about this dime. Come mid 2018, I was approached by an intermediary for the owner of the New England Museum 1866 dime. The 2013 winning bidder had decided it was time to sell the piece with yours truly being the most likely buyer. Discussion lasted for several months before we finally settled on a purchase price that was close to the 2013 record level. The deal was struck during July of that year and this absolutely amazing dime moved to the Gerry Fortin Collection. Astute collectors and dealers, who have previewed the coin, easily understand why this is no ordinary MS66 graded example. This piece is a "67" though I have not gone through the process of attempting an upgrade. This piece is holdered as originally sold during the Stack's Bowers May 2013 sale.

I've set the reserve at $12,500 which is pretty much my cost basis. Yes, this is well beyond the current CDN CAC price guide number at $4900. If this piece does not find a new home come May 17th, I will just hold onto the coin in GFRC inventory until a knowledgeable collector appears in the future.

Many of the coins in the Gerry Fortin Collection have these types of noteworthy stories. When assembling one of the finest collections extant, one has to purchase the coin and not the holder. I just can't stress this fact enough.

Wrapping Up The Blog

As mentioned earlier, this will be an in and out of the office day with the shipping department being on holiday. By end of day, the balance of the recent U.S. gold consignment will be posted to the 30 Day Price List. Afterwards, my attention shifts to the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale with bidding beginning on Saturday evening at 9:00 PM. There will be more auction lot discussions within Friday's Blog.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

May 7, 2025

$10 U.S. Gold Galore Plus More...

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Opens This Saturday!

Greetings from the Maine homestead and welcome to the Daily Blog on an early Wednesday morning. Thank you so much for the ongoing readership.

Life is moving along at a fast pace as with a host of items on my plate at the moment. Operating GFRC is only one aspect of what consumes time in a day. Once back in Maine, there are a steady stream of appointments and the usual spring yard clean-up work that is on the "to do" list. Today brings a doctor's appointment for cortisone shots for my left hand along with stopping at Home Depot to retrieve a portion of the previously ordered Echo Pro Series attachments and gas powered head unit that will enable a much easier road sand removal project this year.

Maine weather is best described as cloudy and wet. There is no shortage of water for the wells come the summer months.

Shifting attention to the 718 Boxster, my dream sports car has been released from the Jacksonville Port and is being transported to Sarasota Porsche for its final preparation. I've decided to invest in a PPF (Paint Protection Film) for the full frontal area of the vehicle. Often times, sports car owners will add a black "bra" to the front of their car to protect the paint from chipping and insect spots. The PPF is a more elegant and invisible solution for this issue. The film is about 8 mils thick and entirely transparent with self healing properties when heated by the sun. Key is the application quality with Sarasota Porsche employing a trusted local vendor to get this job done properly.

Diane is also planning a significant sun room improvement project that requires the removal of an old jacuzzi that has not been used for years. The jacuzzi must be dismantled in place and taken out in smaller pieces. This means that the fiberglass unit must be cut into movable sections to fit through available egress points. This will be a messy project, with the benefit being a substantial amount of incremental space (grandchildren play area) in the sun room for the upcoming Matt and Renee family visits during July and August.

Finally, spot gold has seen a strong rally during the past 48 hours to $3435 now that the Shanghai Gold Exchange is back in operation. There has been a small pullback to the $3390 level, during LBMA trading, as the Blog is being composed. Some early morning online financial research indicates that the Treasury bond refinancing process is not being well subscribed internationally, thus the Federal Reserve is stepping in as the buyer of last resort. I've seen a report that the Federal Reserve purchased $30+ billion in 10 year Treasuries in the past 48 hours. This type of activity is a behind the scenes QE.

Let's move to the numismatic portion of today's Blog edition.

$10 U.S. Gold Galore Plus More...

GFRC is pleased to be presenting the following U.S. gold showcase gallery on behalf of a consignment who is slowly liquidating his massive gold holdings.

Today's offerings are primarily $10 gold centric with a a host of Liberty dates. The recent consignment also includes a very popular 1911-D Strong D $2.5 gold lot which should not last long on the price list. You are invited to check the reverse image to note the well formed and bold Denver mintmark.

The primary highlight of today's gallery are two 1892-CC $10 gold pieces with CAC approval. This is a challenging Carson City date with the AU58 lot offering strong frosted luster. Our consignor has also included several double eagles to consider. The 1852 Type 1 lot, graded PCGS VF35 is priced a tad over CDN bid and should not last long at this offer level.

This lot will start posting to the price list this morning followed by later during the afternoon hours.

$10 U.S. Gold Galore Plus More...

1911-D Strong D PCGS AU55 G$2.5 - $4750

1847 NGC AU58 CAC G$10 - $3250

1892-CC NGC AU58 CAC G$10 - $6250

1892-CC NGC AU55 CAC G$10 - $4850

1905-S PCGS MS62 CAC G$10 - $3750

1906-D PCGS MS64 CAC G$10 - $2850

1898 PCGS MS62 CAC G$20 - $4850

1922 PCGS MS64+ CAC G$20 - $4950

1834 Plain 4 PCGS AU55 G$5 - $1850

1870 NGC AU50 G$3 - $2750

1852 NGC AU58 G$10 - $2450

1853/2 NGC AU53 G$10 - $2600

1892-S NGC MS62 G$10 - $2250

1900 PCGS MS64 G$10 - $2700

1901 PCGS MS64 G$10 - $2100

1902 PCGS MS62 G$10 - $1950

1852 PCGS VF35 G$20 - $3550

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Opens This Saturday!

The countdown clock continues to move forward with the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale being a tad over 72 hours away. Following is a reminder that the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection has several finest known or tied for finest known lots in this last auction session.

My 1869-S is the best of the best at a lofty PCGS MS67 grade with blazing luster and spinning cartwheels. The eye appeal of the 1882 F-104 lot is tantalizing with a reasonable reserve number.

1869-S F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $26,000

1882 F-104 PCGS MS67+ CAC 10C - $3750

Wrapping Up The Blog

Like yesterday, I will be in and out of the GFRC office today. There is the usual morning shipping followed by contacting the Massachusetts Collection to decide on a transfer date for his complete Liberty Seated Dime collection. This lot becomes the anchor for the next GFRC Online Auctions events taking place in August and October. If wishing to sell your coins with this marquee collection, now is the time to contact me for making transport arrangement. The Massachusetts Collection dime set will be on display at the June Summer Baltimore show along with other auction bound consignments that arrive between now and early June.

Thank you, as always, for stopping by at the Daily Blog.

Be well!

May 6, 2025

Already Settled In....

The Brief Spot Gold Price Dip is Done

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Opens This Saturday!

Greetings on a Tuesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the visit.

Monday brought a whirlwind day here as the Maine homestead was brought back into regular operating condition. I won't bore you will all the details, just the fact that all the mechanical vehicles started smoothly including a quick 15 minute drive in the Miata just for fun. The gazebo furniture was restored for the summer and autumn seasons along with the barn floor being swept. I took Johnny2 out for a spin, with the grapple, and removed the boulders that were blocking the the construction road down to the back acreage. The GFRC business is fully operational with ongoing shipping this morning. Our early check payment destination shift has worked like a charm as a pile of check payment letters were delivered yesterday.

Remaining is grocery shopping to restock the frig and cupboards. Today also brings a dentist appointment followed by a doctor's appointment tomorrow. All is well which allows me to focus on the upcoming Session 3 Auction Sale which begins this coming Saturday.

The Brief Spot Gold Price Dip is Done

Astute gold bugs in the GFRC community probably noticed that gold prices dropped into a brief consolidation phase last week. The dip took spot gold down to $3220/oz consistent with China's May 1 through May 5 Labor Day holiday. That's right, China markets were closed during that time frame and the price of gold was driven down by the western big banks. There is speculation that the big banks drove the gold price down to unwind their short positions on the COMEX before Chinese markets reopened and kick started a recovery in gold's price rally. Sure enough, once the five day May Day holiday concluded, spot gold has returned to rally mode. As the Blog is being composed, gold is trading at $3380 while silver is a tad below $33 per ounce.

Since understanding how the China markets are now driving the gold price, I took incremental positions in gold and silver miners before the weekend drive to Maine. That move was perfectly timed.

For community members with inquisitive mind, might I suggest that the you research the latest news from the ASEAN Chiang Mai Initiative [Multilateralisation]. The ASEAN block, which includes China, Japan and South Korea, are working in a closer fashion for local trade outside of the the U.S. dollar hegemony. Dedollarization is happening before our eyes and the pace appears to be accelerating. China is working towards establishing Shanghai Exchange gold holding facilities outside of its borders with ASEAN partners. That is right, China is laying the groundwork for a physical gold trading based settlement system that will be ASEAN centric.

I continue to be quite bullish on gold with $4000/oz not surprising me by the end of summer and maybe $4500 by the end of the year. This is a personal opinion and should not be deemed as financial advice. I'm staying close to the international gold market and sharing those items of importance that could influence the long term price of the yellow precious metal.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Opens This Saturday!

The countdown to the final auction session of the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated coinage collections is now underway. After two successful auctions sessions, the divestment of both of these magnificent collection will wrap up next week. Bidding opens this Saturday (May 10th) and closes the following Saturday (May 17th).

Rather that construct new visual galleries of specific Liberty Seated coins being offered, let's bring back the official bidder's guides for the balance of the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated collections. A quick scan will revealed that the later dates are being featured including the all important Carson City dates in the Newtown Collection.

This may sound like a "broken record", but I will once again stress that both Aaron Heintz and Gerry wish to see our prized coins transferred into other community collections. Given this overriding goal, we will work with other collectors on payment terms as necessary. One year payments terms for the Session 3 auction means that the winning balance could be paid off through May of 2026. Key is a 40% upfront payment on won lots with the balance due across 12 months. I will ship lots consistent with the amount of monies paid across the extended terms.

Simply click on either bidder's guide to download a PDF version that can be saved on your hard drive and which can also be printed for reference when contemplating your Session 3 bids. If there are any questions, please don't be shy about emailing or calling me. I'm here to make things happen for all parties.

GFRC Online Auctions
May 10 - May 17, 2025
www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction

Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection - Session 3
Lots and Reserved Prices

Date	MM	Variety	TPG	Grade	CAC	Cert #	Reserved Price
1837		No Stars, Small Date	PCGS	65	CAC	21314594	12500
1849	O		PCGS	64	CAC	05625131	19000
1850	O		NGC	MS67 Star		1748227002	27500
1851	O		PCGS	62		51066606	13500
1856	S		PCGS	63+	CAC	25346849	17500
1858	O		PCGS	65	CAC	3069573	10000
1859	S		PCGS	55		3523603	16000
1861		Type 2 Obverse	PCGS	65	CAC	11475261	1400
1861	S		PCGS	62	CAC	60159874	17500
1865	S		PCGS	63	CAC	4580332	17500
1866			PCGS	66	CAC	27382710	12500
1869	S		PCGS	67	CAC	4152091	26000
1871	S		PCGS	65+	CAC	06863865	16500
1873	S	With Arrows	PCGS	64	CAC	14915765	4500
1875	CC	Below Wreath	PCGS	65	CAC	12013956	4500
1875	S	In Wreath	PCGS	65	CAC	50119580	3000
1876	S	Type 1 Reverse	PCGS	66	CAC	12177285	3250
1876	CC	Type 2 Reverse	PCGS	64	CAC	03190357	3250
1877	CC	Type 2 Reverse	PCGS	66	CAC	13534519	4750
1877	S		PCGS	65	CAC	14273114	8250
1879			PCGS	66	CAC	04851829	1450
1881			PCGS	66+	CAC	82920688	5000
1882			PCGS	67+	CAC	40680316	3750
1883			PCGS	67	CAC	44364205	3000
1884			PCGS	66	CAC	50193527	1500
1884	S		PCGS	64	CAC	09960659	2250
1885			PCGS	67+	CAC	42641233	5500
1885	S		PCGS	65	CAC	51066607	39500
1886			PCGS	66	CAC	21776762	1250
1886	S		PCGS	67	CAC	25679812	8750
1887			PCGS	66	CAC	50111478	1250
1887	S		PCGS	65	CAC	21552355	1100
1888	S		PCGS	66	CAC	05911114	5500
1888			PCGS	66	Gold	40049485	6850
1889			PCGS	67	CAC	25215163	4500
1889	S		PCGS	64	CAC	50014924	1400
1890			PCGS	66	CAC	05931338	1450
1890	S		PCGS	65	CAC	12824073	1750
1891			PCGS	66	CAC	38156413	1100
1891	O		PCGS	66	CAC	37380978	2750
1891	S		PCGS	66	CAC	5801959	2500

GFRC Online Auctions
May 10 - May 17, 2025
www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction

Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection - Session 3
Lots and Reserved Prices

Date	MM	Variety	TPG	Grade	CAC	Cert #	Reserved Price
1855	S	With Arrows	PCGS	58	CAC	19473955	18500
1869			PCGS	64	CAC	15386454	5500
1869	S		PCGS	55	CAC	21018831	950
1870			PCGS	65+	CAC	50205117	12500
1870	S		PCGS	62	CAC	33054769	4500
1871			PCGS	63	CAC	4761963	2000
1871	CC		PCGS	55	CAC	90069609	15000
1871	S		PCGS	64	CAC	36683754	4250
1872			PCGS	65+	CAC	81108530	9500
1872	CC		PCGS	55	CAC	25628423	11000
1872	S		PCGS	65	CAC	81939446	20000
1873		No Arrows, Closed 3	PCGS	50	CAC	20996355	550
1873		With Arrows	PCGS	64+	CAC	19846534	5000
1873	CC	No Arrows	PCGS	35	CAC	19319102	3750
1873	CC	With Arrows	PCGS	63		36940280	17000
1873	S	With Arrows	PCGS	58		21832402	3500
1874		With Arrows	PCGS	66	CAC	4943398	34000
1874	CC		PCGS	63	CAC	25399807	37500
1874	S		PCGS	64	CAC	25698095	10000
1875			PCGS	65	CAC	19696072	3850
1876	CC		PCGS	62	CAC	9099127	4150
1877	CC		PCGS	66	CAC	81340169	11200
1878			PCGS	66+	CAC	81874149	14500
1878	CC		PCGS	63	CAC	45062666	22500
1879			PCGS	66	CAC	29250361	6000
1880			PCGS	65+	CAC	80687135	5350
1881			PCGS	66+	CAC	33452644	12500
1882			PCGS	65		25679998	4500
1883			PCGS	64	CAC	83906411	3300
1884			PCGS	66	CAC	25041307	7500
1885			PCGS	66+	CAC	37581583	12500
1886			PCGS	63	CAC	34973082	2250
1887			PCGS	67	CAC	46819680	25000
1888			PCGS	66+	CAC	25686012	8250
1889			PCGS	66	CAC	03589910	10500
1890			PCGS	65	CAC	25010814	4950
1891			PCGS	64	CAC	36093412	2000

Wrapping Up The Blog

Other than a dentist appointment for a semi-annual cleaning, I will be operating in the GFRC office today. There is morning shipping to get done followed by completing image process for the newly consigned U.S. gold lot that was featured immediately prior to our departure from the Venice office.

Let's wrap up today's ramblings at this point. A sincere thank you goes out to the many readers who consistently return day in and day out to check on GFRC business activities and our constantly evolving inventory.

Be well!

May 5, 2025

GFRC Maine Office is Open for Business

Greetings from the Maine homestead and welcome to the Daily Blog. How sweet it is to be home! Thank you for checking in.

What a joy to be sitting at my desk in the Raymond office overlooking the front landscaping and watching birds flying in and out of the pancake hemlock by the homestead entrance. That alone is worth the two day 1550 miles back to Maine. At this northern latitude, the sunrise was early at 5:28 AM exposing mostly bare trees. The forsythias are a bright yellow while the maples and oaks are just beginning to show budding leaves. It will be another week before the trees are fully leafed out. A quick visual inspection of the property found little tree damage or down limbs this year. Following is a quick cellphone snapshot of the back acreage and the cool cloudy conditions.

The temperature shift from Venice Florida to southern Maine is quite noticeable as the morning temperature is a cool 52F under thick clouds. So far, there are only two items requiring repair attention. The most pressing in our Amtrol hot water tank has gone into error mode and is not sending a shutdown signal to the oil furnace to stop sending heated water. A repair call into out oil heating company will be done at 8:00 AM. On a less serious basis, our roadside mailbox stand has been pretty banged up by winter snow plowing. I'm prepared for a few more minor issues to be found as we start unpacking and checking all aspects of the homestead and the barn.

So how was the two day drive?

Saturday's drive from Venice to our overnighting point in Virginia was mostly uneventful other than a half hour delay in Georgia due to a roadside crash involving a tractor trailer going off the road in a major way. Sunday was a different story due to rain and the overloading of Northeast interstate roadways due to population growth. There were multiple crashes due to the heavy rains from Virginia into Delaware with some relief in New Jersey and New York. The usual choke points continue to become more "choked" including merging onto I-287 from the Garden State Parkway followed by another traffic mess when exiting I-684 onto I-84 towards Connecticut. As the years progress even the merge from I-84 onto I-90 in Massachusetts is becoming progressive worse. We can't image how bad these bottleneck points will be during the peak summer travel months. Once reaching New Hampshire, the rain again appeared for the final travel leg on Maine's I-95.

But we are home with the Acura MDX being an incredible driving machine.

As you can imagine, there is much to be done today with respect to unpacking the GFRC office and staging order shipments for Tuesday morning. A reasonable number of online orders have also been received while traveling. These will be responded to this morning after the call in to Atlantic Heating for repairing out hot water tank. But first, the wood stove will be fired up to take the chill out of the house.

Come the afternoon hours, I will be reconnecting batteries to the Toyota Rav4, the 1993 Miata and Johnny2 in the barn. Hopefully, all will start up without issues.

That is it for today's Blog edition as there is much to get done in the next 24 hours. Thank you for checking in.

Be well!

May 1, 2025

Final Office Day Before Maine Transition

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Begins May 10

and

AI Generated - Stereo Equipment and Numismatics

Greetings on the first of May 2025 and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning for another edition.

Already, the fifth month of 2025 is upon us as a reminder of how quickly time moves forward. The younger generation might be oblivious to time as there is always ample amounts to look forward to. On the other hand, those of us who are pushing 70 might have a different opinion with time being a precious commodity. It is all a matter of perspective as many aspects of life are. If I'm being a bit philosophical this morning, there is probably an underlying basis for thinking in the manner. I'll leave that basis for your speculation.

Today brings the final day in the GFRC office with some light morning shipping. Then the Venice condo closing effort begins in earnest. Fair warning that there will be no Daily Blog editions for the next three days as a vacation from morning composition will be welcomed while traveling.

On a positive note, the 718 Boxster has landed at the Jacksonville Florida entry port just in time for our northern departure. More on this topic in the future once we understand the time requirement for the vehicle to clear customs followed by transport to Sarasota Porsche.

Yesterday's visit to the dealership resolved the communication issue and brought about a target date for the Fortins taking ownership.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Begins May 10

Speaking of time moving forward so quickly, the final session of the Connoisseur's Auction Sale arrives next Saturday evening at 9:00 PM and will last through the following Saturday. The set is staged with a host of wonderful Liberty Seated dime and half dollar lots to be acquired by those actively pursuing those series.

As a reminder, GFRC continues to offer extended payments terms as it is recognized that finest known and tied for finest known lots come with substantial reserves. Those reserves could be taxing to numismatic budgets on a short term basis, thus the willingness to let winning bidders extend their payments over a 12 month period. At this point, I'm pleased to report that all Session 1 lots with extended payment terms have been fully paid for other than two individuals.

My stated goal of seeing both the Gerry Fortin Seated dimes and the Newtown Seated halves moving directly into other collections has been satisfied at this point. Let's remember that coin collecting is a continuum both from the buying and selling perspective if striving to build a differentiated collection. It does take time to locate and finance the truly superior coins. The reciprocal is that divesting these coins is no different with time being necessary to locate the appropriate new curators. Offloading a collection at a substantial discount into a wholesale market would not give these collections the appropriate level of positive closure and respect. Again, time is a precious commodity but persistence in closing the final chapter of a substantial collection is necessary for ensuring a historical hobby legacy.

AI Generated - Stereo Equipment and Numismatics

So far, this Blog has been on the serious and contemplative side. Let's shift gears towards an AI generated article thanks to a new submission from Len Augsburger. Len reports feeding an AI model with back dated Daily Blog issues that discussed both stereo equipment and numismatics. The opening paragraph is spot on with respect to subtleties, either the fine details of a numismatic piece or the special listening experience on a high end audiophile system. Len might also consider attempting a Porsche 718 Boxster driving experience with numismatics in the future. My expectations are for a similar themed output from the AI model.

There's something uniquely rewarding about immersing oneself in high-quality sound. **Much like a coin collector appreciating the subtleties of die varieties, an audiophile treasures every nuance in music**—tonal clarity, instrument separation, and dynamic range. Good stereo equipment isn't just a luxury for the enthusiast; it's the gateway to hearing a recording as it was meant to be heard. A well-mixed album played on quality gear becomes a transportive experience, not just background ambiance.

Listening through subpar gear is akin to examining a rare coin under poor lighting—it's possible, but the essence is lost. Good stereo components, carefully selected and matched, reveal the depth and soul of a recording. From the delicate brush of a jazz cymbal to the precise resonance of a cello string, great gear exposes the artistry hidden between the notes. As with numismatics, attention to detail makes all the difference.

Selecting stereo equipment requires the same patience and discernment as assembling a fine coin collection. Not every expensive component is the right fit; synergy matters. An overly bright speaker paired with a cold amplifier can produce lifeless sound, just as mismatched toning and grade can diminish a coin's appeal. Seasoned audiophiles know that chasing the right sound can be a long, iterative journey—one that rewards persistence and curiosity.

The audio world, like numismatics, has its cycles and trends. Vinyl has returned not simply for nostalgia, but for the warmth and texture it brings. Tube amplifiers, with their glowing valves and organic timbre, continue to captivate. These aren't just nods to the past—they're acknowledgments that, sometimes, the older ways still offer unmatched richness. Shows and meetups reveal a community of enthusiasts speaking the same passionate language, whether it's about rare albums or rare coins.

Beyond the gear and technical talk lies something deeper: emotion. A good stereo system doesn't just play music—it stirs something in the listener. It's the chills from a perfectly timed harmony or the weight of silence between notes. These moments are intimate, personal, and impossible to replicate on low-end setups. Just as a collector may never forget the moment they acquired a key date coin, an audiophile remembers the first time they truly heard their favorite song.

In the end, quality stereo equipment is about respect—respect for the artist, the medium, and the experience. It's not about brand names or wattage wars; it's about connection. The same mindset that leads someone to seek out original surfaces and early die states also draws them to the unfiltered clarity of analog playback. **In both hobbies, there's a constant striving for authenticity. And when that pursuit yields results, the reward is as profound as it is personal.**

Wrapping Up The Blog

The GFRC office is technically opened throughout the day though my response time might just be a bit longer than normal for obvious reasons. All new orders will be shipping from Maine starting on May 6 after we complete this morning's final shipping round.

There is little else to share at this point. Thank you for the visit and we look forward to reengaging with the community starting on May 5th. There is much that will transpire during the next 72 hours or so.

Be well!

GFRC, 502 Auburn Lakes Circle, Venice Florida 34292-2367 207-329-9957 @ gerry@seateddimevarieties.com

© Gerry Fortin, Gerry Fortin Rare Coins 2004-2026, All Rights Reserved Legal Disclosure